Stourbridge
CHRONICLE
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GRIDLOCK DUE TO ROADWORKS

Report by Lee Watton

ROADWORKS brought traffic in Wollaston to a standstill sparking calls from angry residents for better signs and clearly marked diversion routes when the scheme resumes this weekend.

Severe traffic queues formed on routes around the village while work was carried out at the traffic island on High Street.

Residents have criticised Dudley Council claiming there had been little notification of the work and saying that few signs had been put up to make drivers aware of the closure.

Work on the project will resume both this and the following Sunday and residents are now calling for better measures to avoid a repeat of the problems the caused gridlock.

People in the village said it had taken some motorists around 90 minutes to travel just a quarter of a mile.

Resident John Coyne, 50, of Gilbanks Road, said the situation had been 'crazy'.

"It was utter chaos. There is no other way it can be described," he said. "Although some roads in the area might not be so busy on a Sunday, this one certainly is."

Mr Coyne said that the council had put up small notifications on lampposts around two or three weeks before the work had taken place.

"Let's be honest very few people stop and look at these," he said. "If you are a motorist driving through the village you're hardly likely to park up and take a look.

Warning

"Usually when work is taking place clear signs are put up warning drivers that roadworks are taking place nearby. I live in the the village and there were not any I could see. No leaflets were put through people's doors either."

He added: "It was a terrible situation. The traffic was so bad it was taking people around 90 minutes just to drive a quarter of a mile.

"This was obviously actioned with very little awareness or planning. In my view of anyone had required the fire or ambulance services in the wider Wollaston area they simply would not have been able to get through."

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services on Dudley Council, said measures had been put in place.

"Diversion routes were in place while the essential resurfacing work was carried out," she said. "Unfortunately due to the need to close the island to traffic to undertake the work congestion in the area was unavoidable."

"Advanced warning signs of the works were in place during the week and the works were carried out on the Sunday to avoid impacting on rush hour traffic during the working week."

WALKING FOOTBALL STRIDES TOWARDS SUCCESS

Mayor of Dudley Steve Waltho with 'keeper Councillor Derrick Hemmingsley and his team mate deputy mayor Mohammed Hanif

TEAMS of over 40s got competitive during a waking football competition which was launched in a bid to encourage older people to become more active.

Eight teams battled it out for supremacy at Wordsley Park on Saturday, while being careful not to break into a run, in the one-off tournament featuring sides from across the Dudley borough. It is hoped the success of the event will lead to more competitions taking place.

Wordsley councillor Derrick Hemingsley, who played in a Dudley Council team, said: "The turnout was beyond expectation. The weather was fantastic and it was a great competition, all the teams want to do it again. It was a real success."

Russ Smith, a coach from the Birmingham FA was among spectators at the tournament which was set up by the park's Friends group in partnership with Dudley Council and Age UK.

A team from Beechcroft in Halesowen were crowned the winners.

He said: "It's great to see football being used for all age groups at Wordsley Park."

Councillor Hemingsley said he hoped the competition would prove to be a 'launchpad' for more walking football events across the Black Country.

He said: "It is part of trying to get people healthy in Dudley, and encouraging older people to get involved and it has been a tremendous success.

"The community is at the centre of what we do and this captures the heart of the community. It is something we want to encourage all our parks in Dudley to do, our parks have got to be utilised more."

RACE

Stars are out for two villages 10k run

TELEVISION presenter Nick Owen and Wolves legend Steve Bull will greet runners taking part in a road race near Stourbridge on Sunday.

Kinver Rotary Club's annual two villages 10k event, involving Kinver and Enville, will be setting off from its new starting line at Enville Hall to raise money for Dudley-based charity Action Heart

Mr Owen, who also lives in Kinver, will officially start the 10k run at 10.30am. The associated 2k family run is at 9.30am. Runners in the 10k event will be presented with prizes by Steve Bull.

SHOPPING

Bag a freebie before 5p charge arrives

RE-USABLE cloth carrier bags are being offered to shoppers in Dudley, before the plastic bag levy arrives.

Dudley Ambassadors are giving away the bags, which promote shopping in the town. From October 5 large stores will charge at least 5p for every plastic bag they provide. Shoppers can avoid paying by taking their own bag.

Dudley's cloth bags are available from the Council House, Dudley Library and Dudley Council Plus while stocks last.

EDUCATION

Former high school is to be bulldozed

A FORMER high school is to be demolished to make way for a new £1.6 million education centre.

The bulldozers are set to move in on Pensnett High School in Tiled House Lane after Dudley Council's application was approved. The school closed in August 2010 despite a campaign by parents to save it.

Some Year 9 and 10 pupils stayed at the site until June 2012, but it has remained largely empty for the past five years.

The new education centre built in its place will support young people with learning difficulties. It will be run by the Pen's Meadow Special School.

INSIDE

CLUB FOR SALE — FANS REACT

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T-shirt faker is jailed for 12 months

FAKE celebrity T-shirts featuring the biggest names in pop — including One Direction — raked in more than £61,000 for a jewellery shop owner as part of a rogue printing operation.

Illegal merchandise sold over the internet also included bracelets and hoodies.

They carried logos of stars including Jessie J, Justin Bieber, Little Mix, The Wanted and JLS.

Russell Potts, 43, was caught with the goods in a swoop carried out by Trading Standards officers at his pawnbroker business Gold Direct Midlands Ltd, Cradley Heath.

Potts, of Tresham Road, Kingswinford, director of the business, admitted seven counts of trading in counterfeit goods and was jailed for 12 months at Wolverhampton Crown Court. He had made more than 5,000 sales of the counterfeit goods. The dodgy items were spotted for sale via online auction site eBay. Along with counterfeit goods, stocks of blank t-shirts, clocks and bracelets, computer equipment and documents were seized at the premises in High Street.

Mr Mark Jackson, prosecuting for Sandwell Council, said: "The defendant may have been operating a legitimate business concerned in the sale of watches and jewellery but he was also operating a counterfeiting business from the same premises.

"Analysis of the defendant's eBay and PayPal accounts showed that he made some 5,236 sales of counterfeit goods worth £61,177. The loss to the trade mark holder is substantially more than at £171,073," Mr Jackson added.

Solicitor advocate Mr Stephen Hamblett, defending, said Potts set up the illegal activity when gold sales suffered a down turn in late 2010.

He owns 10 properties including a pub and employs seven people. Mr Hamblett added that the 43-year-old father had raised about £10,000 for charities and had taken part in the London and Paris marathons.

Under the Proceeds of Crime Act he must pay the council £61,177, plus £13,250 costs.

Call for action on busy road after accidents

A CAMPAIGN has been launched for improved crossings on a busy road amid fears lives are being put at risk.

Motorists who stop for pedestrians at existing zebra crossings along Bromley Lane, on the border of Wordsley and Kingswinford, are sometimes being overtaken by other drivers who do not want to wait, it is claimed.

Calls have now been made for safety measures along the route to be upgraded with pelican crossings which would compel drivers to stop.

An investigation has been launched by Dudley Council looking at the existing crossings on the road and it will also focus on measures at nearby Rangeways Road.

The campaign is being led by Wordsley's Councillor Derrick Hemingsley, who said he hoped to have an answer on the upgraded crossings within a couple of months.

Just over a week ago a nine-year-old boy was hit by a car along Bromley Lane. The youngster suffered a head injury but was still conscious and talking to officers at the scene. He was taken to hospital for further treatment.

Councillor Hemingsley said better crossings along the busy road were urgently needed. "It is vital we improve safety along this road," he said. "It is not the case of an accident waiting to happen – incidents have already taken place along the road."

Worried

Councillor Hemingsley said he had been approached by residents who were worried that more people would get hurt if better measures were not introduced.

"A lot of people a very worried about the situation on the road at the moment," he explained. "This is an issue we have to make progress with and deliver.

"The first stage of the investigation is to establish whether either location meets the criteria for a signalised crossing. To this end officers of the council will arrange for two 12-hour counts to be carried out as quickly as possible."

Councillor Hemingsley said he hoped the data would be collected and analysed by late November.

● **Speed campaign is gathering pace — see page 4**

Lions roared in to preview big game

Rugby heroes Jonathan Davies MBE and Phil Vickery MBE were special guests at Dudley Kingswinford RFC

THE visit of two rugby legends to a grassroots club was hailed as 'the biggest day in its history' but its president.

Former England prop Phil Vickery and Wales fly-half Jonathan Davies were the guest speakers at Dudley Kingswinford Rugby Football Club's World Cup warm-up lunch. The pair of former British and Irish Lions previewed Saturday's massive clash between their two nations to an audience of more than 500 at the Swindon Road club.

All cash raised at the event will go towards the running of the amateur club, with club president Graham Robbins saying a large part will be ploughed back into the mini and junior sections at the club.

Mr Robbins said: "This is the biggest day in our history. We had (England head coach) Stuart Lancaster here last year so this is continuing in that tradition but is probably even bigger."

Carmarthenshire-born Davies praised the 'great atmosphere' at the gala luncheon. "I'm from a similar background in a club like this and it's great to see so many people have turned up," said the 52-year-old former Neath, Llanelli and Cardiff player.

Vickery, aged 39, formerly of Gloucester and Wasps, said that grassroots rugby needs to be 'celebrated and championed'. Barnstaple-born Vickery's prediction of a 28-25 win for England didn't happen, instead it was Wales that won by that scoreline at Twickenham.

Bishop at service to mark 250th anniversary

THE Bishop of Dudley was among special guests as a church in Brierley Hill marked its 250th anniversary.

Around 150 people attended a service to celebrate the milestone at St Michael's Church in Bell Street South on Sunday.

A choir performed during the service, while the Rt Rev Graham Usher addressed those who attended.

The red-brick church was built in 1765 when it became part of the parish of Kingswinford. Much of the tower was restored in 1900 and the building has undergone various changes since it was constructed in the 18th century.

Bishop Usher said: "It was a great celebration of a very significant anniversary in the life of St Michael's Church. It was a great celebration of 250 years of service to the community and to the needy. It is a place for people's stories of joy and sorrow.

"Any church which marks a significant milestone deserves celebrating and it was also a chance to look forward to the ways it can continue to serve God in the local community."

Mayor of Dudley Councillor Steve Waltho was also invited to the ceremony, which he said was a fitting tribute to one of the borough's most historic buildings.

He said: "It was an excellent service, very appropriate. There was music, the choir was excellent. Although it is a beautiful church, the congregation has been in decline over the years so to see around 150 people there was good. It was nice to be able to gather together."

Club night blasts off for final time

BLAST Off will return to Wolverhampton's Civic Hall for the final time in December before work starts on a £10.4 million revamp of the venue.

The popular club night will hold a Christmas party on the same night as the KYTV Festival, which will see Black Country indie heroes Ned's Atomic Dustbin take to the stage.

The Blast Off! Xmas Party starts at 10pm on December 19 in the Wulfrun Hall, with the Civic Hall also opening to revellers at the end of the KYTV Festival.

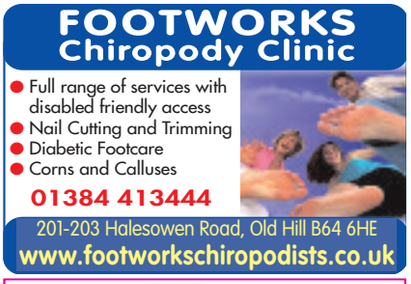
Civic Halls spokesman Jonn Penney, who is also lead singer of Ned's Atomic Dustbin, said: "The night will help to see an appropriate end to a great era."

Tickets are £6.60, available on 0870 3207000 or via www.wolvescivic.co.uk

Landmark pub is to be demolished

A LANDMARK pub in Dudley will be demolished in December, after approval was given to bulldoze the building.

Plans to replace the King Arthur, next to Birmingham New Road, with an Aldi supermarket and 94-space car park got the green-light earlier this year.



Concern at return of weeds on a landmark

WEEDS are again sprouting from brickwork at the side of Wordsley's historic Red House Glass Cone, sparking calls for a permanent solution to the long-running problem.

Clumps of vegetation can been seen emerging from the grade-II listed heritage building in High Street.

Dudley Council said it was aware of the problem and were making arrangements for the weeds to be removed.

But Wordsley Councillor Paul Brothwood said it was not the first time the problem had occurred and suggested that a way had to be found of dealing with it permanently.

"It is a real concern because there is a chance these weeds could damage the fabric of this historic building," he said.

"I am pleased the council is making arrangements for the weeds to be removed. But I believe we should be looking at ways to prevent this from happening. Surely that would be more cost-effective for the council and eliminate any future risk to the cone."

Cabinet member for tourism on Dudley Council, Councillor Khurshid Ahmed confirmed that the council was looking into the situation.

"We are making arrangements for the growths to be removed as part of our regular and maintenance," he explained.

Officials from the authority have previously said preventing the weeds from growing at the site was difficult, as they grow from seeds which become airborne and lodge in the brickwork.

More than 100 homes to be built

MORE than 100 homes are to be built on the site of a former college in Rowley Regis.

The former St Michael's Business and Enterprise College site in Thorne Road will be demolished after councillors approved plans submitted by Redrow Homes to build 123 properties.

The building has been empty since the college moved to a new site in 2010.

Developers say 80 of the properties would be four-bedroom houses with 34 three-bedroom houses, plus nine would be flats. Councillor Steve Trow said it was 'great that the site was being brought back into use'.

Sandwell Council unanimously approved the plan.

Library hosting an autumn quiz

DUDLEY Library is hosting its latest quarterly quiz on Monday.

The autumn competition is open to teams of up to five, with entry £1 per person. It is taking place from 7pm to 8pm at the library in St James's Road.

Watchdog says care home must improve

A CARE home has been told it must improve by a health watchdog.

Broadway Halls Care Home in The Broadway, Dudley, was subject to an inspection by the Care Quality Commission.

It was ranked as needing to improve overall but was good for effectiveness, care and responsiveness.

The care home has carried out a programme of improvements since the inspection.

In a report, inspectors said: "The service was not always safe.

"People were supported by staff who knew how to protect them from the risk of abuse, but there were not always enough staff on duty to meet people's changing needs. Risks to people's safety had not been reviewed and therefore there was a risk of inconsistent care." Inspectors also said: "People's medicines were not always managed appropriately because the home ran out of supplies."

Inspectors concluded the home was 'not always well-led' but residents said the care they received was excellent and the report described the staff team as 'caring, professional and dedicated'.

Inspectors also praised aspects of the home's services, noting that 'staff were well trained, effectively supported and well-motivated'. The report also said that 'people and their relatives spoke consistently about the caring attitude of staff and their commitment to supporting people's happiness'.

Care home spokesman Robert Mitchell said: "We are encouraged that the CQC inspectors rated the service as good for being caring, for providing effective care and for being responsive to people's needs and wishes.

"No aspect of the service was rated as inadequate, although the inspectors found some areas that required improvement.

"We have been carrying out a programme of improvements since the inspection in June.

"We are using a recognised 'safe staffing' tool... to ensure the appropriate number and skills mix of staff for residents' needs at all times. We have improved our quality assurance systems and the administration of medications."

Schools get permission to become academies

TWO primary schools in Dudley borough are to become academies after final agreements were approved by council bosses.

Bromley-Pensnett Primary School, in Pensnett, and Halesowen's Manor Way Primary School will both open as academies from today (Thursday).

Both sites will be operated by trusts after Dudley Council agreed to the transfer. Councillor Ian Cooper, cabinet member for children's services, confirmed the necessary permission had now been rubber-stamped.

Bromley-Pensnett will be sponsored by the DRB Ignite Education Trust while Manor Way will be sponsored by Windsor Academy Trust.

The trusts, acting through management companies, will operate the academies on the same sites as the old schools.

On the Bromley-Pensnett site, a children's centre there will be leased back to the council for a period of three years. A specialist early years nursery, which serves the borough, is also located on the site and will be leased back to the council for a period of five years.

There are 49 staff, both teaching and local government, at Bromley-Pensnett and 36 at Manor Way. All will be transferred to the trusts as employees.

Peppercorn

The grant of a lease for both school sites will be at a peppercorn rate.

Mrs Dawn Betteridge, headteacher of Manor Way Primary, said: "We are now making all the necessary preparations and getting everything ready for the change to academy status."

Helen Coles, headteacher of Bromley-Pensnett Primary, said in a letter to parents: "I want what is best for the children and families. I think you know that I am committed to our school and passionate about providing the very best education for our children.

"I do believe that conversion to an academy would give us increased flexibility of the budget to develop a curriculum that better meets the needs of the children."

They are the latest schools in the Dudley borough to have changed to academy status.

Previously King Edward VI College and Ridgewood High School joined forces to form the King Edward's Stourbridge Academy Trust. Redhill School, in Stourbridge, has also become an academy.

Florence celebrates in vintage style

Florence Jefferies from Wall Heath celebrates her 106th birthday with a visit from a vintage car

"SHE is marvellous, she always wanted to make it to 100 but since then every year has been a bonus."

Those were the words of Bryan Jefferies, whose mother Florence has celebrated her 106 birthday in style in Wall Heath.

Mrs Jefferies was treated to a surprise visit from a vintage vehicle – manufactured by Wolverhampton company, Clyno, which was founded the same year she was born. The 1928 Royal Tourer car was parked on the driveway of The Cherries care home, in Beachcroft Road, Kingswinford, while family members presented her with a bottle of bubbly and a bouquet of flowers.

Mrs Jefferies grew up in Wolverhampton but moved to Wall Heath in 1988.

She met her husband Fred in 1946. He passed away at the age of 78 in 1985.

They have two children together, Bryan, 65, and David, 64, and two grandchildren, Louise, 42 and Sarah, 38 and one great-grand child Sophie, who is eight.

Mr Jefferies said: "She is a real character. She was always the head of the family and stayed very independent right up into her 90s. She was a traditional lady that looked after everybody. She enjoyed knitting and holidaying every year with dad in Torquay."

NEWS IN BRIEF

TV presenter in comedy showcase

A POPULAR children's TV presenter will be showcasing his adult stand-up comedy routine when he tops the bill at the Fitz of Laughter comedy night tomorrow (Fri) at Katie Fitzgerald's pub in Wollaston.

Scottish comic Iain Stirling, a CBBC presenter who went to be the voice of ITV's Love Island, has also appeared on Russell Howard's Good News.

He tops a bill in the Cellar Bar also featuring Kelly Kingham, musical comic Vince Atta and compere Wayne Beese.Tickets are £15 on the door or £10 in advance. Call (01384) 374410.

Security steps up against travellers

SECURITY is being stepped up at a recreation ground in Kingswinford to stop travellers getting on the site.

Travellers set up camp at the Greenfields Road recreation area for the second time in a month. But they left the site last Thursday.

Dudley Council is now installing new bollards at the recreation ground to prevent caravans being driven on to the site.

Councillor Patrick Harley said: "I think these new measures will be a deterrent to prevent this from happening again."

War memorial will be ready in time

A WAR memorial will be installed at its new home in time for Remembrance Sunday.

Work is ongoing on a £35,000 project to restore and relocate the monument which stood outside Mount Tabor Church, Sedgley Road West, Woodsetton, for many years.

Councillor Keiran Casey said it was expected to be installed at its new location, further along Sedgley Road West, between October 26 and November 6.

History talk on how to impress a queen

AN EVENT fit for a queen will be the subject of a talk at the next meeting of Stourbridge Historical Society on October 15.

Gillian White will a talk on Robert Dudley, Queen Elizabeth and the spectacular Kenilworth Entertainment of 1575, when the 1st Earl of Leicester entertained the Queen for 19 days at his country seat Kenilworth castle.

The meeting is at Stourbridge Town Hall at 7.30pm. For details visit www.stourbridgehistoricalsociety.com

Watch group expands

STREET Watch Wordsley, a volunteer group which stages patrols in the town and raises concerns with the authorities, is growing. Another team is to be set up for High Acres estate.

Those interested should attend a meeting at the High Acres pub on Wednesday, October 7, from 6.30pm.

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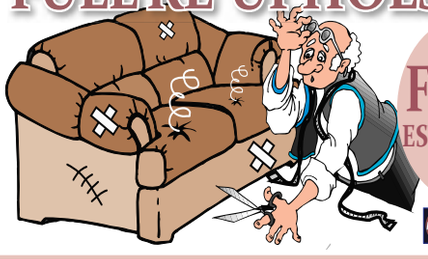
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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

A READER tells me he heard a radio interviewer ask the managing director of a chain of take-away sandwich shops whether his company's expansion plans would mean new jobs. The boss replied that there would "certainly be a number of roles to fill."

OUR phone line is kaput again. The recorded message from BT says I can keep up with the engineers' progress on the internet. Listen, if I could keep up with the engineers' progress on the internet, I wouldn't need the bleedin' engineers, would I?

I THOROUGHLY enjoyed the latest dark and gritty Scandinavian murder series, Beck (BBC4), especially the little greeting the Swedes use at the end of an affectionate chat or phone conversation: "Kyss," meaning kiss. That could catch on.

WINTER draws on. I have bought a new pair of old-fashioned cotton flannel pyjamas, having become utterly fed up with the modern T-shirt and baggy trousers equivalent. Proper pyjamas have long sleeves and fleecy linings. They also have a breast pocket, although I cannot imagine what for.

THE Archbishop of Canterbury is offering a cottage at Lambeth Palace to a family from Syria. Only a curmudgeon would point out that London already has about 1,000 folk sleeping rough who might have appreciated a warm room in Lambeth.

IT'S safe to assume the Daily Mail wants David Cameron out and George Osborne in. Why else would it serialise Lord Ashcroft's bitter biography of the PM, warts (pigs) and all?

AS a general rule, when a politician's (alleged) youthful follies are exposed, we heave a sigh and say, "Well, we've all done that, haven't we?" Not this time, Mr Cameron.

A SURVEY reveals that two-thirds of children rarely write letters. As one who has barely handwritten anything since being plonked behind a typewriter in 1969, I am not surprised. Surrounded by iPhones and suchlike gizmos, who would willingly reach for a pen and paper? Meanwhile, another survey reveals that few children play with hoops and sticks any more and hardly any have had a ride in a Zeppelin. And that bear clutching a roll of Andrex is still heading for the forest.

I CANNOT vouch for this one but a reader swears he heard an arachnophobia expert on the radio telling listeners: "If you want to know more about spiders, visit our website."

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Woman faked £20 notes to escape debt

A WOMAN who tried to get out of a drug debt by printing her own money has been jailed for two years.

Danielle Jones, of Westgate, Oldbury, produced fake £20 notes on her scanner at home, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told. The 29-year-old then stopped strangers in the street and asked them to give her change for the bogus cash.

She also used the counterfeit money to pay for takeaways, revealed Mr Robert Edwards, prosecuting.

Jones had been made the subject of a community order for a similar scam in Derbyshire two months earlier. She was spotted passing off the fake cash in the Black Country on January 3 when she was given two £10 notes by a woman she had stopped in the street. Moments later the victim realised that she had been duped.

Ten days later staff at the Tesco supermarket at Burnt Tree in Dudley called police after complaints about a woman who was asking people to change £20 notes in the shop.

On February 22 she gave a delivery driver two counterfeit £20s for a takeaway but was caught out after pulling a similar stunt on April 11.

Police raided her home, discovered the scanner and a sheet full of £20 copies waiting to be cut to size. Jones had produced at least £360 worth of counterfeit currency. Jones admitted making and passing counterfeit notes and asked for nine further offences to be taken into consideration.

Mrs Amanda Jenkins, defending, said Jones and her partner had been attacked over her drug debts and had been told she would be targeted again if she did not hand over the money.

New domestic abuse campaign is launched

by David Cosgrove

A NEW campaign against domestic abuse has been launched in the Black Country.

It reveals there are, on average, 48 cases a day – up from 33 three years ago.

New standards are being set out for the first time for the levels of service and support that victims should receive and expect. The scheme brings together groups from the public and voluntary sectors.

It aims to send out a clear message that domestic violence perpetrators are to blame for their behaviour and that victims are never at fault.

Domestic abuse does not just refer to violence, but also covers all forms of abuse – including emotional control.

The West Midlands Domestic Violence and Abuse Standards set out 10 key points that should be followed when dealing with domestic abuse incidents.

David Jamieson, West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner, said: "I will be holding the police to account to ensure that they deliver these standards and will be working closely with other bodies to ensure that they are meeting these standards too.

Robust

"Domestic violence occurs at least 48 times a day in the West Midlands. We therefore need robust services in place to support victims and help them to recover. The increase in the reporting of domestic violence is a positive step, that shows that there is increased confidence in the police to deal with such crimes."

The different groups are working together to make sure their response is 'comprehensive and coordinated'.

Stephen Rimmer, West Midlands strategic lead for preventing violence against vulnerable people, said: "These standards set out a very clear and public commitment from all of the key agencies across the West Midlands to provide the best possible service to victims and their children."

Speed campaign is gathering pace

Councillor Derrick Hemingsley, PSCO Andy Ormand, James Callaghan, Councillor Paul Brothwood and supporters

A COMMUNITY speed watch project is gathering momentum after school pupils were invited to take part.

The monthly campaign has been taking place in Wordsley in recent months.It came in response of concerns over speeding motorists and accidents happening on roads near homes and schools.

Police have joined volunteers from the community to lead the series of monthly speed clampdowns.

Organisers decided to raise awareness among pupils of Dingle Primary School. Youngsters were allowed to hold speed guns used by volunteers to monitor speeds of motorists. They hope the scheme will help raise awareness in the wider community and improve safety.

During the operation two people were caught exceeding the 30 mph limit. Letters are sent to motorists warning them of their future conduct.

Ward Councillor Derrick Hemingsley said: "I was pleased to have 20 children and helpers from the Woodcraft Group based at the Dingle Primary School coming out with us and having a go with the speed gun.

"My passion for community and safety is one that is gaining public support within Wordsley and hopefully with new members joining us my vision will be a weekly speed watch rather than monthly. "

Fellow ward councillor Paul Brothwood added: "Each child got the chance to use the speed gun. It was a really good evening and showcased a great community spirit."

The next event is being planned for this month.

Rogue trader fined after showing false car mileage

A ROGUE car dealer from the Black Country sold a car which had nearly double the amount of miles on the clock than it was advertised with.

Arvinder Singh Gill found himself before Dudley magistrates after the car's new owner began having problems with it and contacted trading standards.

It subsequently came to light that the BMW 316 had done 133,000 miles rather than the advertised 75,000 miles.

Gill, of Newbridge Crescent, Wolverhampton, further misled the buyer as the MOT certificate provided with the car omitted several defects.

The advert also failed to state the vehicle had previously been declared a Category D insurance write-off.

Gill, who trades as Autodesign and Auto Elite, pleaded guilty to four offences under the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations.

He was fined £2,000 at Dudley Magistrates Court on September 17.

The 36-year-old was also ordered to pay costs of £3,458.80, compensation of £625 to the consumer and £50 victim surcharge.

Dudley councillor Rachel Harris, cabinet member responsible for trading standards, said: "Trading Standards officers investigate complaints where second hand vehicles are not described fully or accurately because it is vital that consumers receive the information they need to make an informed choice about whether to purchase. We will not hesitate to take action."

Petition against shop plan at pub

MORE than 250 people have signed a petition against revised plans to build a store on a pub car park in Cradley Heath.

Sandwell Council has already thrown out one scheme put forward by New River Retail for the Haden Cross site on Halesowen Road. But the firm has submitted fresh proposals, saying it has addressed issues previously raised by councillors.

The Friends of Haden Cross collected more than 250 signatures in two weeks for a petition which will be submitted to the council this week.

The group will hold a public meeting on October 13 at the Haden Cross from 7.30pm.

It is expected that the planning application will be decided by councillors on October 21.

Motorist has heart attack at the wheel

THE driver of a car which overturned in Brierley Hill suffered a heart attack at the wheel. The man was taken to Wolverhampton's New Cross Hospital after the incident on Venture Way at around 12.30pm on Wednesday, September 24.

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Machine that could save lives placed near school

STAFF and parents from a Kingswinford school have teamed up with a charity of 999 first responders to get a life-saving defibrillator installed in the community.

Charlotte Taylor, a Glynne Primary School parent, decided to help to get the device introduced following the untimely death of her father due to cardiac arrest.

Pete Goddard was a fit and healthy 51-year-old and died following a routine weekend of running with friends in 2011.

Charlotte and Pete's wife, Sue, decided to donate money for a security box to hold a defibrillator.

The piece of equipment has been provided by the Glynne Primary School Parent Teacher Association and supplied by West Midlands Ambulance Service and Fast-Aid Black Country.

Training

Fast-Aid Community First Responders volunteers work together with West Midlands Ambulance Service to deliver the free training programme in schools and other organisations.

Charlotte said: "We now fully understand the importance of swift action in the case of a cardiac arrest.

"We feel it is vital that defibrillators are located where they can best serve the community, in this case just outside the school gates."

She added: "Hopefully, this defibrillator will never be needed but it's good to know it is there."

Hometown gig for young folk singer

RISING star of the British folk scene Kim Lowings has a hometown gig tonight (Thu) at music venue Scarycanary in Stourbridge High Street.

The dulcimer playing singer/songwriter brings her four piece band The Greenwood to preview her forthcoming second album Historia. Tickets cost £6 on the door.

Gigs this month at Scarycanary include guitarists Jim Ghedi and Toby Hay on October 16, experimental London band The Chap on October 17 and Japanese psychedelic outfit Acid Mothers Temple & The Melting Parison UFO on October 21. Singer/songwriter John Donaldson, in his JD Meatyard guise, is at the venue on October 30. See www.scarcanaryvenue.com for further details.

Variety show for fans of nostalgia

THE Good Old Days of Variety will be staged at Dudley Town Hall on October 13 from 2pm.

Tickets are priced £11. For more information, or to book, call 01384 812812.

Lessons learned from health complaints

HOSPITAL chiefs in Dudley say they are committed to 'learning lessons' after the number of patient complaints lodged with an ombudsman rose last year.

The Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman was contacted 37 times regarding care at Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, up from 31 in 2013-14.

Three of the complaints were upheld following 10 investigations.

Paula Clark, chief executive of Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, said all complaints were taken extremely seriously and a robust system was in place for dealing with, and investigating, complaints.

She explained: "The trust uses all patient feedback, including complaints, to learn lessons and make improvements to practice where necessary and always complies with any recommendations set out in reports from the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman.

"We always do our best to resolve complaints for patients to learn lessons from their experiences.

"Patients who lodge complaints receive detailed written responses and are also offered local resolution meetings in an attempt to resolve any issues.

"Occasionally, if patients are unhappy with how we have dealt with their complaint, they may choose to contact the Ombudsman who can take on the complaint on their behalf.

"When a case is partly or fully upheld by the Ombudsman, the trust receives a report which includes a summary of the patient's concerns, what we have done in response and any recommendations the Ombudsman would like us to action."

Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust saw the number of complaints made to the ombudsman fall from 90 in 2013-14 to 67 over the last 12 months. Investigations were held into 13 and seven were fully or partly upheld, up from two.

Karen Beechey, head of Patient Advice and Liaison Services and complaints at the trust said: "The figures demonstrate that SWBH is working hard to resolve complaints locally."

Hospital spent £6m on temps as 250 jobs cut

THE NHS trust that runs Russells Hall Hospital spent more than £6 million on agency staff at the same time as axing 250 posts to cut costs.

Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust forked out £6,325,792 for agency workers between April 2014 and March this year. But bosses said spending on agency staff had gone down from the previous year.

New figures, revealed by a Freedom of Information request, revealed agency staff clocked up a total of 139,228 hours during that period. They worked 26,622 hours in medical and dental areas of the trust at a cost of £2,415,940.

Agency staff were also used in qualified nursing roles for 65,216 hours to the tune of £2,622,738 and clocked up 7,842 hours in scientific, technical and therapy areas at a cost of £348,934. They were used for administrative and clerical work for 5,418 hours, costing £377,058, and in health care assistant roles for 34,130 hours, costing £561,121.

The money was spent at the same time the trust axed more than 250 posts in an effort to save £7.5m following Government funding cuts. This included 33 voluntary and eight compulsory redundancies.

Two hundred positions were scrapped at the trust by not filling vacancies as they arose. Dudley North MP Ian Austin said it was a 'crazy' situation.

Shortage

"Across the country the bill for agency staff has risen over the past three years," he said. "At the same time more than half of NHS trusts, including Dudley Group, are in deficit. It is due to a shortage of staff and caused by the Government cutting the number of training places for nurses and staff."

Chief executive of the Dudley Group Paula Clark said the trust had reduced its agency costs from £7.13m in 2013/14.

"We are committed to ensuring all our patients receive the best possible care. Patient safety is always an absolute priority," she said.

"We always try to cover vacant shifts from our own staff bank before employing agency staff. We make no apologies for making sure our services are safe. There is a national shortage of qualified nurses, specialist doctors and other health professionals. To make sure patients are safe and cared for by appropriately skilled staff, we sometimes use agency staff to cover staff shortages. "

Colourful pastel art goes on show

Visitor services manager Sarah Hall at Wordsley's Red House Glass Cone with works in the art exhibition

COLOURFUL images of people and places captured in pastel have gone on display at Wordsley's Red House Glass Cone.

It is the first time the Birmingham and Midland Pastel Society has staged an exhibition at the venue and bosses at the attraction, in High Street, said it is proving popular.

The display, which will run until November 1, is being held in the showcase gallery and features around 40 pictures, all of which are available to buy.

Visitor services manager Sarah Hall said: "It is the first time the society has held an exhibition at the cone and we are delighted to be showcasing its work.

"The pictures are very colourful and autumnal in a way, so it is the perfect time to be holding this exhibition. It has already generated a lot of interest from visitors."

The society was founded in the early 1980s to provide a Midlands group for artists working in pastel. Its first display was held in 1984 at the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists' gallery.

In the 1990s the group was renamed Birmingham Pastel Society but took on its present title in 2006 to reflect its wider membership. It has since then held its biennial exhibitions in the city.

The exhibition is open between 10am and 4pm.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Delve into past at local history event

HISTORY buffs will be able to take a journey through the borough's rich heritage at an event on Saturday at the Archives and Local History Centre, on Tipton Road.

The event is free to attend and will run between 10am and 4pm. It will feature a number of family and history society exhibitions.

Visitors will also be able to find out more about researching their own ancestry.

There will also be local talks, family activities and quizzes, a raffle and a free prize draw.

Driver cut free after collision

A DRIVER had to be freed from her car following a two car crash in Dudley.

Fire crews had to cut the roof off a vehicle at Venture Way at around 3pm on Thursday, September 24. A woman in the car was taken to Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital suffering neck pain. Crew Commander Andy Froggatt said: "There was a woman trapped by injuries in the vehicle, so the fire crew cut off the roof to free her."

The road was closed between High Street and Charlotte Street for around 50 minutes.

Cemetery needs tidy-up helpers

VOLUNTEERS are needed to lend a helping hand to tidy the grounds of a cemetery as part of a £1 million restoration project.

Work is under way to revamp the Grade II listed Lye and Wollescote Chapels and surroundings and the next session will take place on Saturday, from 10am to noon. Once restored the chapels will be used as a register office. Contact Carolyn Healy on 07805 489296 or Carolyn@redkite network.co.uk for details.

Places available at pre-school nursery

A NURSERY near Stourbridge is appealing for families to sign up for places.

Stourton Peter Pan Pre-School needs more children to take up spaces to keep the nursery open.

Fifteen hours a week free places are available for all three-year-olds and free places for some two-year-olds.

Peter Pan is based at Stourton village hall, off the Bridgnorth Road.

Call 07801929034 for inquiries.

Car demolishes wall

A CAR smashed through a garden wall in Dudley after being involved in a collision another car.

The Volkswagen Golf careered through the wall and into the garden in Summerfield Road at around 4.20pm on Saturday.

No-one was hurt in the incident.

ADVERTISEMENT

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

New Street is better – except as a station

ON Friday, I took a day off work to see the revamped Birmingham New Street Station.

From the outside I thought it a little underwhelming, to be brutally honest. Smart and business-like, certainly, but not architecturally imposing. More London Euston than the truly great stations such as King's Cross or St Pancras.

But indoors? Fantastic. A huge glass dome casts a pool of natural light on the hordes below. There is a huge range of shops to cater for every need and budget. Then, there is an excellent range of cafes and restaurants, and that nasty old pub has now been replaced by a hip and stylish bar.

In short the new station is now a destination in itself.

There's just one problem though. Once one has finished sipping Prosecco in the atrium, having perused the contents of the John Lewis list, and devoured the exquisite range of cakes and ice creams, it is down the same old escalator into the same old dark, cramped and crowded New Street below. The same old drab, depressing platforms, the same old dingy lighting, the same old New Street.

The new station is better in every way than the old New Street, save for one aspect: being a railway station. On that score, it is still a big disappointment.

■■■

LIKE most men, any visit to a retail establishment must first be preceded with a battle plan, the aim being to avoid any unwanted conversation with sales assistants whatsoever.

Chaps will know what I'm talking about; wait until other people enter the shop the same time as you do, move quickly but quietly, know what you are looking for before you go in, and don't whatever you do, make eye contact with any young man in a sharp suit.

However, during my visit to the New Street's Grand Central last week, it appears staff have come up with a cunning new ruse to combat us stealth shoppers. Now dressed in casual clothes, without any discernible identification, they mingle with the shoppers and gently engage them in conversation.

It also seems that some of the higher-end retailers have stopped putting prices on their clothes. Presumably in the hope that people will ask a member of staff, and then feel obliged to pay the extortionately high price for fear of being thought of as rude or tight. Yeah, right.

As I've said many times before. These Brummies. They don't understand Black Country folk, do they?

■■■

I THINK the least said about David Cameron and the Pig-gate allegations the better. Except that a horrible image comes into my head every time I tuck into a packet of pork scratchings.

The haul of 406 'binned' weapons at Handsworth West station

A close-up view of one of the weapons – a knuckleduster

Guns among the weapons put on display last week

Bins move hope for life without the knife

Hundreds of deadly weapons have been handed in after bins were put out across the region. **ROB GOLLEDGE** reports

LIKE a terrifying piece of modern art, 406 deadly weapons are displayed side by side for the first time.

A serrated knuckleduster designed to maim victims, an intimidating 20-inch machete, and a fierce jigsaw blade are among the horrifying arsenal taken off the West Midlands streets in the past six months.

"They live in a life of perceived fear," says Mike Smith, founder of Word 4 Weapons, describing those who surrendered the haul in 11 deposit bins across Wolverhampton and Birmingham.

The aim is to rid the streets of these lethal killers. But expectations are realistic.

"In the Bible, it refers to people who live by the sword, end up dying the by the sword, and the same applies now," he said. "Carrying a weapon does not save a life, it takes a life. The bins are not going to solve it alone.

Surrendered

"People have been killing each other since Cain and Abel and that is not going to stop overnight. But it is part of the puzzle."

There were 406 weapons surrendered in the latest cache. But more than 15,000 have been collected across the West Midlands and London by this pioneering voluntary scheme since 2009. Mr Smith added: "I started in 2007 and the reason was that I saw so many young people lose their lives because of knives. We could never do this on our own. There is a lot of support from police, local authorities, and community organisations.

"We go into schools and talk about the consequences of carrying a knife and what could happen. In schools pupils are taught maths and English, how to make a baby but not how to save lives. These are the things that made me feel we needed to do something. In the West Midlands the communities have been very engaged. They have asked for it and they have supported it.

PCC David Jamieson with the haul of 406 weapons that have been taken off the streets

"Knife crime has been around for a long, long time. I grew up in 1960 and can remember the skinheads, mods, rockers, punks, and teddy boys. They carried them around. In society we have a gang culture and territorial culture. If they knew the fact you are more likely to be injured or killed by carrying one they wouldn't do it.

"We have other influences out there such as TV and films. We can't stop those influences but as parents and guardians we can teach and coach our children to separate reality from fiction. A lot of education has to start at home.

"TV and films are dramatised. It feeds negativity by glamorising. Look at James Bond; he shoots people, and sleeps with many beautiful women. We need to instil values in people so that they can separate fact from fiction.

"The reality of being in a gang is not glamorous. It is boring."

The perception of fear is something that is echoed by a top West Midlands police officer who works to clear knives and guns from the streets. Detective Constable Dave Webb said: "I work as a link between the community and the police. The scheme has helped establish trust with the local communities and from the number of knives and even fire arms deposited, the results speak for themselves.

"There were more than 100 knives in one bin in Wolverhampton including a live firearm. It is all about trust and confidence but it is important that this is something that is run by the community. Why do people carry knives? It is about protection. Because one person has a knife, someone else thinks they need one. Each one of these lives represents a concerned mother or someone who has found a knife in their child's room and has the trust and confidence to get rid of it safely.

"They represent someone who has gone to school and had made that choice that they do not need it and surrendered it."

Knife crime has reduced from 4,116 incidents in 2002/03 to 1,555 last year.

But that is still an average of four knife crimes a day across the Black Country and Birmingham.

Community campaigner Desmond Jaddoo added: "I think a lot of it is peer pressure. They see others around them with knives and think they have to too. Others are poor and think the only way they can get what they want is to rob someone else."

In total, 406 items were last week emptied from the collection bins, including 104 in Whitmore Reans and 14 in Heath Town, both in Wolverhampton.

The city will host the first Word 4 Weapons Community Awards at Molineux next month to recognise the contribution made by people to rid knives from the streets.

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson said: "These are ordinary people who are coming together to get knives and weapons off our streets.

"The numbers here may be shocking but it shows the bins are working.

"Residents can be reassured that every effort is being made to reduce knife crime. The figures are down by a third in the last decade and schemes like this with faith leaders and community figures is effective."

Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner Yvonne Mosquito said: "It is the community that has taken this action. Although looking at the number and sheer variety of the weapons is horrifying, this is good news. Each one of these knives is someone who has not been killed or stabbed.

"There were people who were sceptical at the start of this project but getting these weapons off our streets is encouraging."

There are bins in Whitmore Reans, Heath Town, Sparkbrook, Edgbaston, Hockley, Lozells, Erdington, and Aston.

Another bin is planned for the Sandwell area, likely to be in West Bromwich.

Congratulations on narrowboat events

MY congratulations to both Netherton and Tipton who hosted canal festivals across consecutive weekends in September.

I was pleased to perform at both and get drawn in by all the narrowboats and activities that were there to be enjoyed. I was particularly pleased to spend some time on the Ikon boat (being used as a creative art space) that I will be performing on at the Black Country Museum in October. The boat has been part of the Black Country Voyages project for a few years and will be near its Tipton home.

The colour of the boats and canal art on show always reminds me of the boats we saw around the Churchbridge area of Oldbury when we were kids.

My only regret was not recording conversations and sets played by performers that I could have used on my show the Omma n Chain, now on Black Country Radio Sunday afternoons between 4 and 6.

The standard of performers at both events was only what I expect now when I move around the region giving talks or performing. To be part of the event brought the notion of celebration of heritage to the fore. There is something very different between the boat festivals and other more community framed festivals. You are walking into the past in some sense while remaining very much in a contemporary setting.

I am always honoured when asked to be involved in any of these events. Well done to everyone who put so much work into the events and next time I'll take a recorder and get some reactions from the families that are central to the success of any event of this kind.

DR B DAKIN (BILLY SPAKE MON)
Tividale

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL
dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

What about the rules of rugby?

WHEN I was at school, we were taught the rules of rugby.

In the front row of the scrum, there should be two big guys on the outside, supporting a slightly smaller guy – the 'hooker'.

When the ball was thrown into the scrum, it should go through the middle, and the 'hookers', by sort of making a pedalling action with their feet, should compete for the ball.

The one who pulled the ball back to his teammates, who then recycled it back to the rear, won the scrum.

Simple isn't it?

So why do the present players throw the ball into the feet of the players of their team?

This surely is cheating, isn't it?

Are all of the referees blind?

These days they could consult the guy who is watching the game via video,couldn't they?

P COLE
Kingswinford

Sadness over pubs sacrificed for stores

IT is very sad to see so many pubs being closed, replaced mainly by super or mini-markets. How many grocery outlets do we need?

Morrisons, for example, are closing two more stores, yet want to build another supermarket in Sedgley on the Seven Stars pub. This application should not be even considered.

How can it be right for companies like Morrisons to open and shut stores willy-nilly, throwing their employees out of work or moving them from their homes and environment?

The hoteliers in Dudley were recently appraising their selves on fully booked overnight stays, proving once more that the King Arthur has a future.

It stands on the gateway to Dudley and would make another hotel as tourism booms ato the zoo and the Black Country Living Museum.

Don't give up on 'the Arthur' — it's much better than seeing another supermarket on your first visit to the Black Country surely.

M SAXON
Tipton

PM's brave talk fails to grasp truth

THE Prime Minister becomes the latest in a long line of chest thumping muscle flexing leaders to roar his defiance of the Taliban and all other terrorist organisations, including ISIS, as he thunders that he is ready to take on these organisations anywhere in the world. But, he warns, we cannot do this with air strikes alone, the time has come when we must be prepared to put boots on the ground!

The thing that I can never understand is why all these bravura MPs never seem to grasp as simple truth, that a goodly proportion of these 'boots' will be returned home in a military transport plane. Of course they will be neatly packed in brand new wooden boxes, and beautifully gift-wrapped in the Union flag.

Isn't it about time we decided it's time to stop getting involved in conflicts which most of the time have nothing to do with us?

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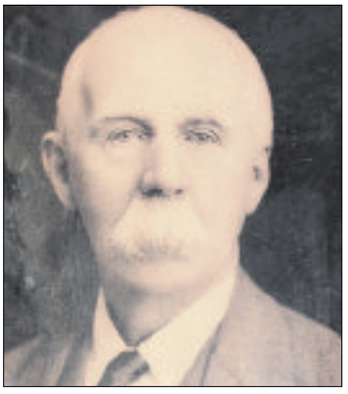
Life member Walter in 1973, when he was manager of John Harper Football Club



John W. Hunt, founder of Chillington Tool Co

Short Heath United FC, one of the teams in the first year of the J.W. Hunt Cup, in 1926

Walter, of Wolverhampton, with the cup, at the Pavilion

JW Hunt Cup life member Walter Wakeman, in the 1980s

Lots of celebrations and surprises as JW Hunt Cup hits 90-year milestone

LAUGHTER and surprises were the name of the game at the 90th anniversary celebration of the historic JW Hunt Cup that sees amateur footballers battle it out for the right to appear at Molineux.

Launched in 1926, the competition has raised £308,000 to help blind residents since its creation.

The recent gathering, at the Goodyear Pavilion, in Stafford Road, Wolverhampton, was part of a series of activities being held to mark the milestone.

Proceeds from the popular competition are donated to Beacon Centre for the Blind.

At the event the competition's former secretary and treasurer Walter Wakeman was presented with an engraved glass decanter in recognition of his more than 35 years service to the football cup.

MEMORY LANE

Report by Deborah Hardiman

Mr Wakeman, 86, of Lodge Road, Oxley, was invited to become secretary in 1985 replacing Peter Crane, before taking on the treasurer's role in 1994 – a post he gave up only last year.

The trophy is named in memory of John William Hunt, a businessman and benefactor who founded the local Chillington Tool Company and was a supporter of charities in the area.

Tireless

Mr Wakeman, also a retired referee, says: "The whole idea for the JW Hunt Cup was to raise money for the Blind Institute that was based almost opposite Molineux in Waterloo Road.

The first final was held in 1927 when it cost only pence to go and watch. "It is wonderful that the competition has been running for so long.

"It's not just about me. A lot of other people have been tireless in their work for it."

He was presented with the special gift by Wolverhampton Wanderers club secretary Richard Skirrow, who praised him for his dedication to the sport.

Teams that compete come from a 40-mile radius from the Birmingham, Staffordshire, Shropshire and Worcestershire Football Associations and the final is held at Molineux.

The inaugural winners were Short Heath United, who beat Cannon Iron.

The silver trophy which has distinctive 'crocodile' design handles has been won by Tividale FC for the last two years and was on display at the event along with memorabilia collected by the cup's committee over the decades, including winning team photographs, players' badges, and medals.

Chillington's trademark was the 'crocodile', and this was incorporated into the cup.

Cup president Alex Hamil, of Ettingshall Park, said: "We are very proud to be in our 90th year and are looking forward to celebrating our 100th anniversary.

"There used to be thousands of these competitions all over the place, now there are just a few so I'm very proud to see still going we hope to see it carry on for many years to come.

"Without people like Walter this competition just wouldn't happen. We appreciate everything that he's done."

Around 60 supporters of the cup including referees and former players attended the event that included a buffet and a raffle with proceeds going the Beacon Centre for the Blind, which is based in Sedgley Road East.

Earlier this year an exhibition of cup memorabilia was held at the Black Country Living Museum.

Guarantees sought on cash for fleeing Syrians

REFUGEES fleeing Syria will not be accepted by at least two West Midlands councils without guarantees of funding from the Government.

Council leaders in Sandwell and Walsall have ruled out taking any of the 20,000 Syrian refugees due to come to the UK unless they receive more than the one year of funding guaranteed from the international aid budget.

But Dudley Council has revealed it will take 20 refugee families while Wolverhampton council has said it is working on a plan to accept around 20 people. Syrian refugees will be funded by central government out of the international aid budget but it is only guaranteed for a year. It is not clear who will foot the bill for anyone who has not been given leave to remain after that.

Destitute

There were calls for the Government to redraw its 'dispersal' areas for 'supported' asylum seekers after official figures revealed the Black Country has hundreds more than Birmingham while most of Shropshire has none and there are only four living in Cannock Chase.

'Supported' asylum seekers are those in receipt of public funds who would otherwise be destitute because they cannot work while their application to stay in the country is processed. Sandwell alone has 695 while Wolverhampton has 645, Walsall has 234 and Dudley has 226.

These figures account for all supported asylum seekers, not Syrian refugees currently arriving on the shores of Greece and other European countries, many of them travelling by dinghy and risking their lives.

Wolverhampton council leader Councillor Roger Lawrence, West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership chief, said: "Metropolitan boroughs have been designated as dispersal areas by the Home Office. We are arguing that the Government should designate other areas in the West Midlands as dispersal areas. These are not people funded in any way by local authorities.

"They are funded entirely by the Home Office. They are housed in the private sector. Often we do not know where they are."

Sandwell Council's leader Darren Cooper has informed the Home Office that his borough will not take any Syrian refugees 'as it currently stands', saying that the figures show there is 'clear evidence' that the Black Country has already taken more than areas of similar population size. Warley MP John Spellar, who obtained the figures in a Parliamentary question, said: "The Government has been taking money away from councils who have been doing more than their fair share. I very much agree with Sandwell Council on this."

But a Conservative MP said the the lack of asylum seekers in the county was down to the cost and supply of housing, which meant it was difficult to house new arrivals. South Staffordshire's Gavin Williamson said: "There's no point offering for people to come to an area where it is not possible to get them somewhere to live."

Rohullah Yakobi, of Wolverhampton, with his wife Tahira, son Sa-aadat, aged five, and daughter Roya, eight months

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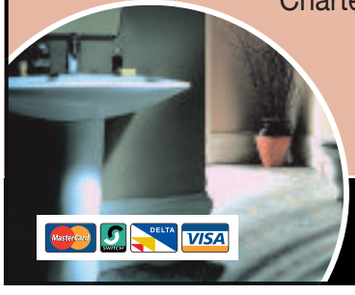

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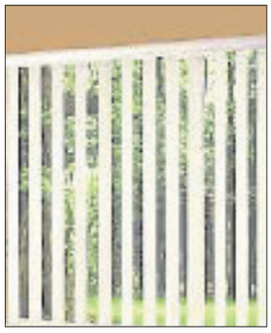
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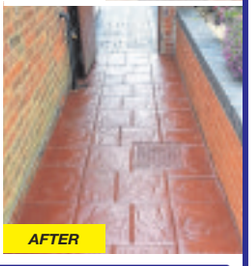
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Comedy play is pure murder

THE audience will be kept guessing as an amateur dramatics society brings its murder mystery show to the Black Country.

But the play Murder in Play, at Kingswinford Methodist Church from Wednesday, October 7, is a whodunnit with plenty of laughs.

Director of the Wordsley Amateur Dramatic Society production Andrew Rock said: "It is a comedy murder mystery set in a failing drama society with lots of has-been actors, one of whom has been bumped off. It is a murder mystery with some great laughs and some very over-the-top performances."

The show will run for four nights until October 10 and around 150 people are expected to attend each night.

Tickets cost £7 and can be ordered by calling (01384) 273026.

Argos looking for more than 350 festive season workers

ARGOS is looking to recruit 377 seasonal workers to work across its stores in the West Midlands to deal with the Christmas rush.

The company wants 335 customer helpers to support Argos' 30 stores in the area to meet demand for toys, video games, technology and other popular gifts over the festive season.

In addition 42 drivers "with great customer service skills" are wanted to work as part of Argos' store to customer door distribution service during the peak shopping season, which it expects to be highly popular with customers looking for same-day delivery.

The retail chain said initial contracts for all vacancies were around three months, but held out the hope of some jobs becoming permanent at the end of the season.

Recruits will be offered a minimum of 10 hours per week with a minimum of six hours per week for weekend staff.

The recruitment is part of a nationwide hunt by Argos for 9,000 Christmas staff, with jobs available at stores across the UK.

Across the West Midlands Argos has stores in Dudley, Walsall, Oldbury, Merry Hill, Wolverhampton, Bentley Bridge in Wednesfield, Bilston, West Bromwich, Rugeley, Kidderminster, two in Cannock and another two in Stafford.

The company says it serves 121 million customers every year with 19 out of 20 people living less than 10 miles from one of its stores.

Leigh Baxter, regional manager for the West Midlands at Argos said: "Christmas is the busiest and most exciting time to be in retail."

Interested candidates can apply for all roles at www.argosxmasjobs.co.uk.

Tar very much for punk rock

A PUNK rock supergroup is coming to Bilston's Robin 2 venue as part of a short UK tour.

The Jack Tars feature Captain Sensible from The Damned; Mike Peters, frontman of Welsh rockers The Alarm; Slim Jim Phantom of rockabilly revivalists The Stray Cats; and Chris Cheney, singer with Aussie punks The Living End.

Fans are told to anticipate classics including Neat Neat Neat, Rock This Town and Sixty Eight Guns, plus Australia's biggest selling record of the '90s, Prisoner of Society.

Tickets cost £17.50 in advance or £19.50 on the door. See www.therobin.co.uk for further details or call the box office on 01902 401211.

All aboard for boat bonanza

Boater Derek Jervis, of Newcastle, at The Black Country Living Museum's weekend afloat

IT was all aboard at a boat festival marking the history of travel on the region's canals and rivers.

Hundreds of families arrived at the Black Country Living Museum to see the vessels which had arrived as part of the Historic Boaters' Gathering.

Visitors to the Dudley attraction experienced what life was like on the water during the 18th and 19th centuries.

Volunteers led talks, while people were also allowed to jump on board some of the boats and take a look around.

A 134-year-old tug boat was among the older attractions on show.

There were demonstrations and activities to keep families entertained during the two-day event.

Andrew Hoyle, one of the boat owners moored at the museum for the event, said he rarely missed an opportunity to take his boat, which was built in 1925, to historical events up and down the country.

The 59-year-old, who is normally docked at Fradley Junction in Staffordshire, welcomed visitors onto his boat. He said: "It was excellent. There were lots of people, lots of families.

"There were a full range of boats from various periods, right up to the modern day. It was a good family day out."

There were more than 40 historic boats on display.

Another of them was Derek Jervis' large Woolwich boat, built in 1936. The 56-year-old said: "It has been fabulous, there have been a lot of people around and everyone has been getting into the spirit of it.

"This is a big event in the boating world and we all enjoy it immensely."

Vicious robber hunted after attack on worker

A MANHUNT has been launched for a robber who slashed a shop worker with a blade and escaped with £3,000.

The robbery took place at the Cost Cutter store on Common Road, Wombourne, and left the 21-year-old cashier from Wolverhampton needing hospital treatment.

The worker suffered cuts to his head and face and was taken to Russells Hall Hospital, where he was treated for his injuries and shock.

Shopkeeper Tony Singh said it was vital that the 'animal' who carried out the attack at 10pm on Sunday, September 20, be caught. Mr Singh, who has run the store since it opened in 1993, said: "Our member of staff was totally ambushed. This guy has slashed his face and left him in a pool of blood."

Staffordshire Police have urged anyone with information to contact Detective Constable Marc Bailey on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

War show at town hall

STOURBRIDGE singer Maggie O'Hara features in First World War play Brummegem Pals at Dudley Town Hall in November.

Written by and featuring veteran entertainers Don Maclean and Malcolm Stent, the moving play tells the story of two friends seeking adventure and follows their journey to the horrific Battle of the Somme.

Tickets cost £19.50 for the performance on Friday, November 13, at 7.30pm, available by calling (01384) 812812.

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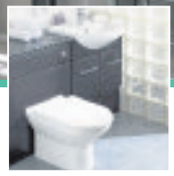

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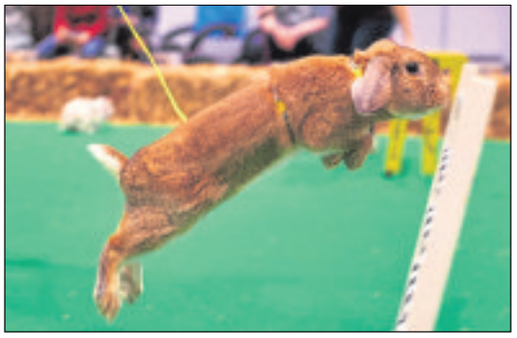

See rabbits haring over hurdles at the annual show

COMPETITION

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THE National Pet Show sponsored by Gocompare.com returns to NEC Birmingham next month – and 15 lucky readers can win a pair of tickets.

With hundreds of different animals, amazing action displays, expert talks and many more activities, the National Pet Show, running from November 7-8, provides an educational and entertaining weekend for pet lovers across the country.

From the cute and cuddly to the weird and wonderful, visitors can get up close and personal to their favourite animals and receive essential advice from the experts.

Amazing action displays including Rabbit Show Jumping and Duck Herding, with a whole host of exciting new feature areas including Hill's School for Dogs, TopCats and the Nerf Activity Ring. The nation's most skilled and heroic dogs will showcase their talents in the Super Dogs Live competition.

Visitors can meet animal experts and celebrities including reptile expert Crocodile Joe, while Professor Noel Fitzpatrick, on the last leg of his Eukanuba Supervet Live Tour, will recount heart-warming stories from his popular Channel 4 show The Supervet and reveal the latest veterinary profession advances.

Visitors can also seek out the ideal festive gift for their pets.

The National Pet Show promotes responsible pet ownership and animal welfare with experts on hand to provide advice and answer any questions. For more information visit www.thenationalpetshow.com

Supervet Professor Noel Fitzpatrick

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Fly-tipping down in South Staffs

REPORTS of fly-tipping has fallen by a quarter in South Staffordshire in five years.

Council bosses say a crackdown on the problem is working, with nine people prosecuted last year – the highest in the region.

Fly-tipping is rocketing in most areas of the Black Country and Staffordshire with 13,298 reports last year but just 12 prosecutions. More than £1.7 million was spent by councils over the last three years tackling the problem.

But in South Staffordshire last year nine people were prosecuted and convicted for fly-tipping, resulting in fines and costs of more than £8000.

Roger Lees, South Staffordshire Council's cabinet member for legal and public health protection, said: "We still think this is too many. All fly-tipping is an absolute disgrace. This is why we are proactively dealing with the issue."

Dudley's fly-tipping total rose from 729 to 820 in three years.

Father's trek on the Great Wall of China for hospital

AN intrepid Coseley man clocked up thousands of steps and nearly 100 miles as he trekked along the Great Wall of China to raise cash for the hospital which cared for his son.

Jason Addison, aged 44, has now returned from the challenge and is on course for his £10,000 fundraising target, although more donations are welcome.

He covered the distance in just five days taking in sections of the wall at Beijing, Huangyahuan, Taipingzhai, Qiangjian, and Shuichang.

The cost of the trek was self-funded so all the money donated will be given to Birmingham Children's Hospital Oncology Unit Ward 15.

Mr Addison, who runs Addison Tyres in Tipton, said it had been a remarkable experience but tougher than expected.

He added: "It is a breathtaking sight to look back and see the wall snaking back behind you. However, it was very tough going. Each step is so steep."

Mr Addison, from Coseley, said his son, Scott, had leukaemia when he was four and was cared for at the hospital. Scott is now in remission, fit and well and turns 21 this year.

To donate visit www.justgiving.com/addisontyres-china-trek

Jason Addison during his walk on the Great Wall

Support group is for carers

CARERS are invited to attend a new regular drop-in event in Dudley town centre.

Carers Tea and Chat links people who support friends or relatives who have a disability or a long-term illness, with other carers and organisations. The service launching tomorrow (Fri) is a partnership between Dudley Carers Network, Healthwatch Dudley and Dudley CVS.

Sharon McGlynn, carer coordinator from Dudley CVS, said: "Carers Tea and Chat is an informal way for them to meet other people in the same situation while finding out about help and support that may be available".

It will be on the first and third Friday of every month between 9.30am and noon in the Lunch on the Run café at DY1, part of a new community building in Stafford Street. Contact Healthwatch Dudley on 03000 111 001.

King Shazad lifted his 50th mile-stone

Shahzada Saleem with the heaviest stone he lifted

ACCOLADES were paid to an Asian sporting legend from Dudley as guests marked his 50th birthday.

Shahzada Saleem, better known as King Shazad, became world champion in Asian stone lifting and broke numerous records. Friends, family and dignitaries attended his 50th birthday celebrations at Brierley Hill Civic Hall, organised by his son Shaz Saleem, chairman of Dudley Private Hire and Taxi Association.

Mayor of Dudley Councillor Steve Waltho presented Mr Saleem with a trophy in recognition of his career. Mr Saleem's son Shaz said: "His dedication to stone lifting has inspired the next generation to follow in his footsteps."

Mr Saleem was born in Pakistan but his family moved to England when he was one and settled in Dudley. He took up stone lifting in 1983, aged 16, and two years later became the youngest world champion, lifting 160kg (around 350lbs) when he only weighed 12 stone himself. He set a benchmark of 441lbs (201kg) in 1995. After retiring from the sport he began coaching youngsters and concentrated on the family business Beacon Taxis, based in Sedgley.

Globetrotters slam dunk 60th at arena

BASKETBALL legends the Harlem Globetrotters are back with a new generation of trick shot wizards in the tradition of Meadowlark Lemon and Fred 'Curly' Neal.

The exhibition team celebrate 90 years of the Globetrotters at the Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham on April 30, 2016, as part of their anniversary world tour.

They will draw from a star-studded roster including Big Easy Lofton, Ant Atkinson, Hi-Lite Bruton, Thunder Law, Bull Bullard and Cheese Chisholm, plus female stars TNT Maddox and Sweet J Ekworomadu.

The Globetrotters' performance is a one-of-a-kind show with ball handling magic, rim-rattling dunks, trick shots, comedy and unequalled fan interaction. The event is designed to entertain the whole family.

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Recruitment drive proves successful

Grange (E) Guild

IN the absence of chairman Hazel Smith, treasurer Jill Attwood presided over the meeting at Grange Court, Stourbridge, on September 1 and welcomed all members and guests.

Jill read the minutes from the previous meeting which were accepted as a true record and duly signed. She then gave her financial report and secretary Jean Williams brought members up to date with future events within the Federation.

Following this brief meeting guild members enjoyed the Harvest supper which had been prepared and served by the committee. The meal consisted of two courses followed by tea and coffee.

The sales table was overflowing with Harvest produce and went well with everything being sold. The raffle was drawn and three lucky ladies won prizes. The committee were given a vote of thanks on behalf of all members.

At the next meeting on October 6, a representative from Boots will be giving a demonstration of Clarins beauty products. Visitors will be made most welcome.

The recruitment drive for new members has been very successful and the guild is still continuing to recruit for more.

Grange E Guild meets on the first Tuesday of every month except January. Ladies wishing to join as guests will be made most welcome. Contact Secretary Jean Williams on 01384 832439.

Guest Tony proves hive of information

Wordsley M Townswomen

THE September meeting was opened by vice-chairman Ann Birchell who welcomed members and several visitors.

Because of the distracting alterations in the main hall in which the group meets, it was decided to introduce the speaker first and then deal with part of the business afterwards.

Ann introduced Tony Brake whose very interesting talk about honey bees began with him showing the old type of hive compared with the more modern type, one of which Tony had brought along and proceeded to construct. The clothing protection, also demonstrated, is far more superior today than that worn years ago. He also showed several other important items and gadgets and described their usage.

There followed the Harvest table sale. The Harvest lunch, organised by the Federation, is on October 7 at Wollaston Village Hall at 12.30pm

At the meeting on October 19 at 10am, Ruth Lowe will relate the life and rise to fame of Mary Quant.

Humorous talk by Black Country Poet

Dudley South Ladies

CHAIRMAN Mary Jones was delighted to welcome several visitors and 37 members to the Himley House Hotel for the September Luncheon.

The new venue had been necessary because the Kingfisher Hotel had closed for refurbishment and hopes to be open before the new year.

The club will continue to meet the second Friday in each month.

No luncheon was held in August and instead members were invited to a coffee morning at the home of Ann and Mike Rogers. It had been a great success and in addition to good support from members, guests included MP Mike Wood, several local councillors, two representatives from the new owners of the Kingfisher and two from the magazine Village Voice. The occasion raised £181 and was very popular and enjoyed by all.

On a lovely summer day in August Ann had also arranged a canal trip, including afternoon tea, from the Bonded Warehouse, Stourbridge.

The September guest speaker was the Black Country Poet David Bartley who had everyone laughing from beginning to end. His poems and tales were hilarious and he was asked to come back again.

October's speaker will be Mark Newbold, a Falklands War veteran, and in November it is Christine Gregory who will talk about Remembrance Day celebrations in other countries.

Fashion icon speaker's topic

Wollaston 'E' TWG

FORTY nine members attended the September meeting, chaired by Jean Latham.

A letter was received from June Pardoe following her hip operation.

The popular skittles evening has been arranged for next April The next luncheon date is October 20 at The Fox, Stourton.

The Macmillan summer tea party has so far raised approximately £150. Sandra Oliver again won the premier singles bowls shield. Ruth Lowe gave an enlightening talk on the life of Mary Quant and brought along a number of clothing items and 60s memorabilia. Raffle prizes went to Beryl Blackmore and Pat Wilson, and competition winners were Pat McEwen and Joy Heath.

On October 13, Ian Drury will speak about the Portland and Ruskin Centre.

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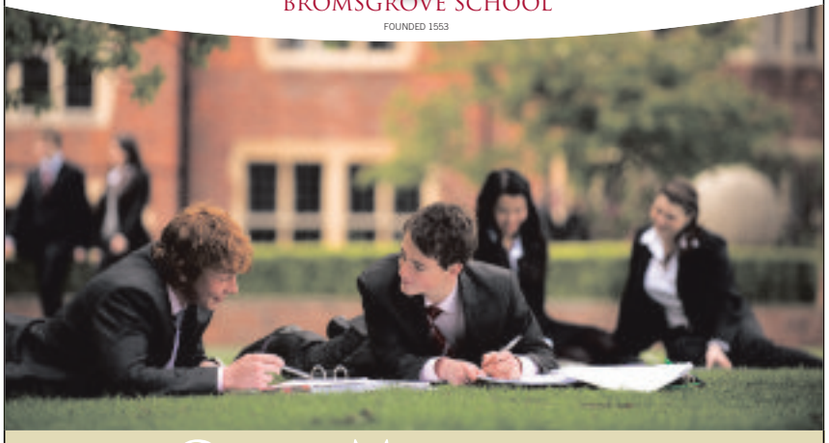

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Mothers — pride for Swim Deep

ALBUM REVIEWS

by Leon Burakowski

Two years after their debut, Swim Deep release second album Mothers

BIRMINGHAM'S Swim Deep go back to go forward on their second album, Mothers.

The light but compelling bliss pop of 2013's Where The Heaven Are We has been replaced by a tougher tripped-out sound blending psychedelic excess with the bleary eyed trance dance sounds of baggy Manchester, circa The Stone Roses and The Happy Mondays.

There is the odd mis-step. Namaste sounds like The Boo Radleys given a tinny Stock-Aitken-Waterman production, while Forever Spaceman finds frontman Austin Williams channeling Syd Barrett around the time of Pink Floyd's Interstellar Overdrive. But the enhanced five-piece (keyboardist James Balmont now a fully-fledged member) have a fuller, more varied sound on Mothers, which the band dedicated to child-bearers, rather than Frank Zappa's Mothers of Invention.

Grand Affection is a compelling Depeche Mode-like groove and Is There Anybody Out There has cinematic grandeur. Other highlights include the wonky charms of Green Conduit and Laniakea, the Spandau Ballet meets Simple Minds sound of Imagination and the closing Fuelho Boogie built on a Giorgio Moroder-like disco beat.

Now Mothers gets road tested when Swim Deep have a home city gig at Birmingham Institute on October 17 as part of their UK tour.

Lana Del Rey takes her languid style of femme fatale vocals into echo chambers of chilled minimalist drama on her third major label album, **Honeymoon**.

The title track opens the album oozing the retro cool of a 1950s torch singer backed by icy strings. It sets the tone for a self-assured exercise in magnificent morose moodiness, reaching a peak of gothic romance on The Blackest Day. The album closes with New Yorker Del Rey's sparse cover of Nina Simone and Animals hit Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood.

Formed more than ten years ago by a group of university students in Stafford, **Editors** have matured elegantly and are now among the finest exponents of dark, melancholy indie rock. Synths and strings, rather than guitars, are at the forefront of fifth album **In Dream**, which underlines the subtle shift in style since the departure of guitarist Chris Urbanowicz in 2012 and arrival of Justin Lockey and Elliott Williams.

Singer Tim Smith has developed a rich sonorous vocal (think Cave and Ferry) but it is flexible, going from mellow to anguished falsetto on opener No Harm. On three tracks he is joined by Slowdive singer Rachel Goswell, a particularly effective partnership on Ocean Of Night. Life Is A Fear and Our Love both have particularly seductive vibes and the album ends at its best with the rather lovely At All Cost and the slow-burning epic Marching Orders.

Editors are in concert at Birmingham's O2 Academy on October 16.

Exciting is not a word I have previously associated with Oxford's **Foals**. Efficient yes, but never exciting, until fourth album **What Went Down**.

The band have developed some rock muscle to go along with the pulsating percussion and fluid, weaving guitar hooks, and singer/guitarist Yannis Philippakis has a tougher edge to his sometimes maudlin vocals. Both are apparent on the exciting title track and equally rocking Snake Oil.

They also do epic pretty well, on Albatross and the powerful finale A Knife In The Ocean.

American singer/songwriter Nathaniel Rateliff is a good fit with the legendary Stax label, having reinvented himself as frontman of stomping R&B band **Nathaniel Rateliff & The Night Sweats.** Their self-titled debut is packed with original songs that will appeal to fans of classic blues and soul. His voice is similar to Paolo Nutini and his style unashamedly old school.

Get sweaty with them at The Institute in Birmingham on October 18.

Rare treat with Born Again Christians

Christians, Roachford, Wulfrun Hall

GARRY Christian addresses the audience: "I'm a bit nervous, we've only been doing this for 28 years."

Well, Garry, it shows. A more polished and spine-tingling performance from one of the late '80s biggest bands, would be hard to find, and yet here we were with The Christians and another leading British proponent of fine soul-inspired rock/pop, Roachford, on the same bill. A rare treat indeed.

Garry may be the only surviving member of the band which took the music world by storm in 1987 but he has surrounded himself with amazing musicians. The self-effacing, 49-year-old and cantankerous — so he says — frontman still has that velvety voice which could melt chocolate.

We were treated to all the classics, Forgotten Town, Born Again and a storming encore rendition of Harvest For The World, each one showing off an amazing vocal blend courtesy of Joey Ankrah and Neil Griffiths.

Roachford, of course, is all about one man, Andrew Roachford. Musicality oozed from his fingertips and his band were happy to let him take centre stage with hook-laden classics such as Only To Be With You, The Way I Feel and This Generation, with his breakthrough hit Cuddly Toy bringing everyone to their feet for a rousing finale.

Graeme Andrew

Liz shows serious and playful side

Liz Simcock
Woodman Folk Club

THE friendly Kingswinford club welcomed well travelled singer/songwriter Liz Simcock who took to the stage this time for a solo performance.

Simcock is a gentle, laid back singer who claims to model herself on the great Joni Mitchell although her sound is quiet distinct from her idol.

Her set really consisted of serious and slow moving ballads such as The Long Haul, about sticking by each other through thick and thin and City Girl about longing to be out in the quiet countryside, or perkier comedy songs such as The Bouzouki and the W3 which was inspired by when she left her newly acquired instrument on a London bus.

There was the occasional twee song too in the form of the Knitting Song, not really fodder for the local rugby club, but a nice enough ditty for all that.

Most of the set was taken from her fourth album Friday Night Train Home which is available now.

Danny Farragher

REVIEWS

Violinist Nicola Benedetti performed with passion and verve at Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Vivaldi by violin virtuoso

Nicola Benedetti,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

ACCLAIMED Scottish violinist Nicola Benedetti paid tribute to her father's homeland with an Italian themed concert on Saturday.

Opening with Vivaldi's The Four Seasons, the 28-year-old former young musician of the year took the solos in a string ensemble that included her partner on and off stage, German cellist Leonard Elschenbroich.

Miss Benedetti played with vigour and a joy as infectious as her smile but her energetic approach was tempered with an understanding that teased fresh qualities from such a well-known and much-loved piece.

The first half of the concert ended with a Vivaldi excerpt but this time the famous violinist played a supporting role to the highly talented young string players from the National Children's Orchestra. There was nothing patronising about this addition to the programme as the young musicians' standards were impeccable.

After the interval, came Duetti D'Amore, by Mark-Anthony Turnage, written for Benedetti and and her cellist partner. A challenging piece, it reflected the phases and foibles of a human relationship, from discord to harmony. Its five brief sections, lasting a total of 15 minutes, received polite applause rather than the enthusiastic appreciation of the Vivaldi. It was rewarding to hear a new work which had received its premiere as part of this short tour.

The performance ended with the return of her fellow musicians for a romantic Russian take on the Italian theme in Tchaikovsky's Souvenir De Florence, which Miss Benedetti led with passion and verve.

Leon Burakowski

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Call 0121 446 3232

Strauss' Salome
Fri at 7.30pm - 10pm, £9.50 - £45
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Something Good: At Dawn, Solar Noon and Dusk
Fri at 9am - 6pm, Sat at 9am - 6pm, Free
Birmingham Cathedral, B3 2QB.
Call 0121 262 1840

Performance Platform: Robert Levin
Tue at 1.05pm - 2pm, 3pm, £3.50 - £6.50
Birmingham Conservatoire, B3 3HG. Call 0121 331 5901

Monday Showcase: Haydn, Beethoven
Mon at 1pm - 2pm, Free
Birmingham Conservatoire, B3 3HG. Call 0121 331 5901

Tamsin Waley-Cohen Plays Mendelssohn
Wed at 2.30pm, £8.50 - £23.50
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

DMS Anniversary Concert – A Fusion of Music and Dance
Sun at 7pm, £6 - £18.50
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

THEATRE

The Supreme Fabulettes In Viva Las Divas
Fri at 7.30pm, £18.25 - £19.25
Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

Sunshine On Leith
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, £15 - £17
The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, B16 8AE.
Call 0121 643 5858

Birmingham Royal Ballet: Kin/ Theme And Variations/Enigma Variations
Thu at 7.30pm, £5 - £85.50
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Bouncers
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 7.30pm, £10/£9
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT.
Call 01785 254653

Vienna Festival Ballet: Coppelia
Thu at 7.30pm, £11 - £64
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

Relatively Speaking: The Nonentities.
Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm, £10 - £12.50
The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster, DY10 2RX.
Call 01562 743745

Shrek The Musical
Fri at 7.15pm, Wed at 7.15pm, Thu at 2pm, 2pm, 7.15pm, 7.15pm, £16.50 - £44.50
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 573320

The Shawshank Redemption
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, £12.90 - £37.90
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Birmingham Royal Ballet: First Steps: A Child's Swan Lake (Ages 3-7)
Fri at 1pm, £10
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB.
Call 0844 338 5000

Birmingham Royal Ballet: Swan Lake
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 2pm, £18 - £106.50
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Tree Fu Tom Live
Sat at 1pm, 3.30pm, £10 - £12
Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

Blofeld & Baxter: Rogues On The Road
Mon at 8pm, £20.35
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

Sally Morgan: Psychic Sally On The Road
Tue at 7.30pm, £23.50 - £27.90
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR. Call 01543 412121

An Evening With Adam Henson: Talk
Fri at 7.30pm, £20.50
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

COMEDY

Doug Stanhope
Wed at 7.30pm - 10.30pm, £30
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Roy Chubby Brown
Thu at 7.30pm, £20 - £21
Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, WS11 1DE.
Call 01543 578762

Jason Byrne: 20 Years A Clown
Sat at 8pm - 10.30pm, £17.50
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

Alfie Moore: The Naked Stun
Sun at 8pm, £11 - £12
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Dancers celebrate silver anniversary

ONE of the greatest ballets of all time will feature as part of the Birmingham Royal Ballet's 25th anniversary season at the city's Hippodrome theatre.

BRB will perform Swan Lake until Tuesday, October 6, before returning to the venue from October 8 to 10 with Variations Triple Bill, which will feature Theme and Variations, Kin and Enigma Variations.

BRB is one of the world's leading classical companies and the UK's premiere touring ballet company. It has staged 139 different ballets over the course of around 225 weeks of performances during its 25 years in Birmingham.

The company is celebrating its silver anniversary and celebrations will begin with the return of one of the company's most beloved productions, Swan Lake, featuring an ensemble of 50 dancers and an orchestra of 60, towering Gothic sets and beautiful classical costumes.

The classic production of ballet's greatest love story features a sumptuous design by Philip Prowse with spectacular costumes including the famous flock of white tutus appearing from a lake of dry ice.

The Royal Ballet Sinfonia's 60 musicians will bring Tchaikovsky's legendary score to life in a spectacular evening.

The Variations triple bill will bring back to the stage the first piece ever performed by Birmingham Royal Ballet in the city, George Balanchine's Theme and Variations. Tickets to the special evening of three unique and different ballets are priced at exclusive anniversary rates with over 200 seats at each performance available at just £10.

BRB will also be exhibiting many of the costumes that have featured in its productions. For the first time, the company has teamed up with one of the city's department stores, House of Fraser to display highlights from the company's extensive catalogue of costumes. Birmingham Royal Ballet: 25 Years of Costume is on show at House of Fraser until October 11.

A scene from Kin, part of the Variations Triple Bill by Birmingham Royal Ballet

Light approach from Gabrielle

HER Birmingham gig has already sold out. But perhaps that should come as no surprise.

After all, Gabrielle Aplin enjoyed huge success with her debut album, English Rain, which prompted an incredible 63.5 million plays on Spotify, 80 million YouTube views, 1.5 million single sales and No 1 chart positions in both the UK and Australia.

And, of course, she enjoyed a huge number one single three years back with a festive rendition of Frankie Goes To Hollywood's The Power Of Love.

She's back on the road soon, headlining Birmingham's Institute on Sunday to preview her new album, Light Up The Dark.

The record was written and recorded in a producer-friend's house, Luke Potashnick, in a corner of Stoke Newington, London. Both intimate and expansive, its songs bristle with energy, crackle with atmosphere and swagger with a Feist-meets-Cat Power brainy cool.

"I've just seen stuff, and I wanted to write about more stuff," is the simple explanation by the 22-year-old from Wiltshire of the progression evident on new songs like the euphoric title track and the punchy, soulful first single 'Skeleton'.

"Light Up The Dark was really speedy. It felt as though I blinked and it was done. We would write the songs, have lunch, then start the demos. But the demos became the recordings. We liked what we'd done so much.

"And now, generally, it doesn't sound like I'm trying too hard when I sing."

Singer-songwriters are coming to Brum

LEADING singer-songwriters Jack Savoretti and James Bay both have gigs coming up in Birmingham.

Savoretti, who released fourth album Written in Scars this year, has sold out The Institute in Digbeth on Saturday.

Bay topped the charts with his debut album Chaos and the Calm and is also likely to face a full house when he is in concert at the O2 Academy on Thursday, October 8.

Otherwise, it's rock all the way with Mallory Knox at the Wulfrun Hall tomorrow (Fri), and Fall Out Boy at the Barclaycard Arena on Tuesday, also the night Teenage Dirtbag outfit Wheatus are at the O2 Academy.

Dog gone tales and confused heroes

ACCLAIMED Cornwall-based theatre company Kneehigh have brought their hard-hitting new musical inspired by John Gay's 18th century satire The Beggar's Opera to Birmingham Rep. Entitled Dead Dog In A Suitcase (And Other Love Songs), it's final performance is in the main house on Saturday.

How To Be A Hero by Bernadette Russell and Gareth Brierley tells of potential caped crusaders confused over how to tell good folk from the bad. It is also on until Saturday, in Birmingham Rep's smaller venue The Door.

Call 0121 236 4455 or visit www.birmingham-rep.co.uk

Back to the 1980s weekend nostalgia

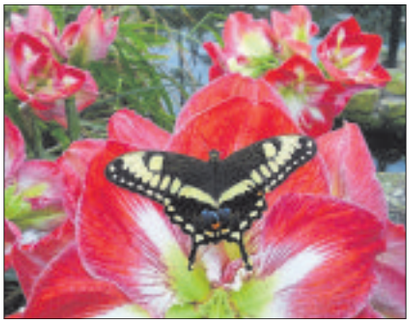
FOUR major acts from the 1980s are in concert across the West Midlands this weekend.

Chroniclers of everyday life, Squeeze, are back with an album named after their theme to TV sitcom Cradle To The Grave and in concert at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, on Saturday. In Wolverhampton that night Icicle Works with Ian McNabb play The Slade Rooms.

Live Aid co-founder and former Ultravox frontman Midge Ure is at the Wulfrun Hall on Sunday, the same night ex-Go-Gos singer Belinda Carlisle, a chart-topper with solo hit Heaven Is A Place On Earth, plays Birmingham Town Hall.

Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, October 1, 2015

There are many way to cruise along the River Avon



Flying high – don't miss the butterfly farm

Waterway to see Stratford – take a river cruise past the impressive Royal Shakespeare Theatre

Worth a visit – Shakespeare Birthplace Trust

Enjoy a break just as you like it

By Diane Davies

FATE decided that a small Midlands riverside town would witness the birth of arguably the greatest playwright the world has ever known.

This alone secured Stratford-upon-Avon's destiny as a world-class destination, welcoming some five and a half million visitors every year. And it's about to get bigger!

Next year is the 400th anniversary of William Shakespeare's death with literature fans, academics and tourists from across the world set to descend on the town to take part in the festivities.

It will be a wonderful celebration to be a part of. But if you want to see some of the many jewels this beautiful market town has to offer in relative peace then it is probably best to go now.

Stratford-upon-Avon is breathtakingly picturesque and almost on our doorstep. You don't have to be a Shakespeare fan to enjoy it either; visitors can find tranquillity along the River Avon, check out a host of family attractions, enjoy top shopping and fine restaurants. Any trip can be exactly As You Like It though, if you do like a little prose, live theatre and care to drop out the odd Shakespeare quote then you'll be spoilt rotten here.

The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust runs a number of Tudor homes linked to the Bard, transporting visitors back to the 16th century. The most popular is, of course, the Birthplace museum, the family home where following his birth in April 1564 he was raised in a time when the town was gripped by the bubonic plague.

It's known that, at the age of 18, William lived at the house in Henley Street for a time with his new bride Anne Hathaway who was already three months pregnant.

There are traditional English gardens behind the house and here you can often catch ad hoc performances by actors who take requests. On a sunny afternoon I wiled away some time watching these casual performances.

Also very popular is Anne Hathaway's Cottage in a small wooded valley on the outskirts of the town. The former farmhouse feels fixed in time and includes some original artefacts from the Hathaway's family home. In nearby Wilmcote is Mary Arden's farm. Mary was Shakespeare's mother and she inherited the farm. Here there are nature trails, archery, falconry and animals as well as an adventure playground.

No visitor to Stratford could fail to spot the imposing Royal Shakespeare Theatre overlooking the river. In fact, the RSC owns a large swathe of the town from the theatre right up to the Holy Trinity Church. To watch a show here is to see Shakespeare at it's finest. The actors are of the highest calibre and no production is ever the same.

Impressive

But if you don't have time to watch a production or think theatre is Much Ado About Nothing, it's worth joining one of the behind-the-scenes tours, offering a chance to sit inside the impressive theatre and hear of its recent transformation. You also get to go into wardrobe, the 'control room', see the dressing rooms, and some of the exquisite costumes and learn some of the technical secrets such as the truth about David Tennant's hair in Richard II.

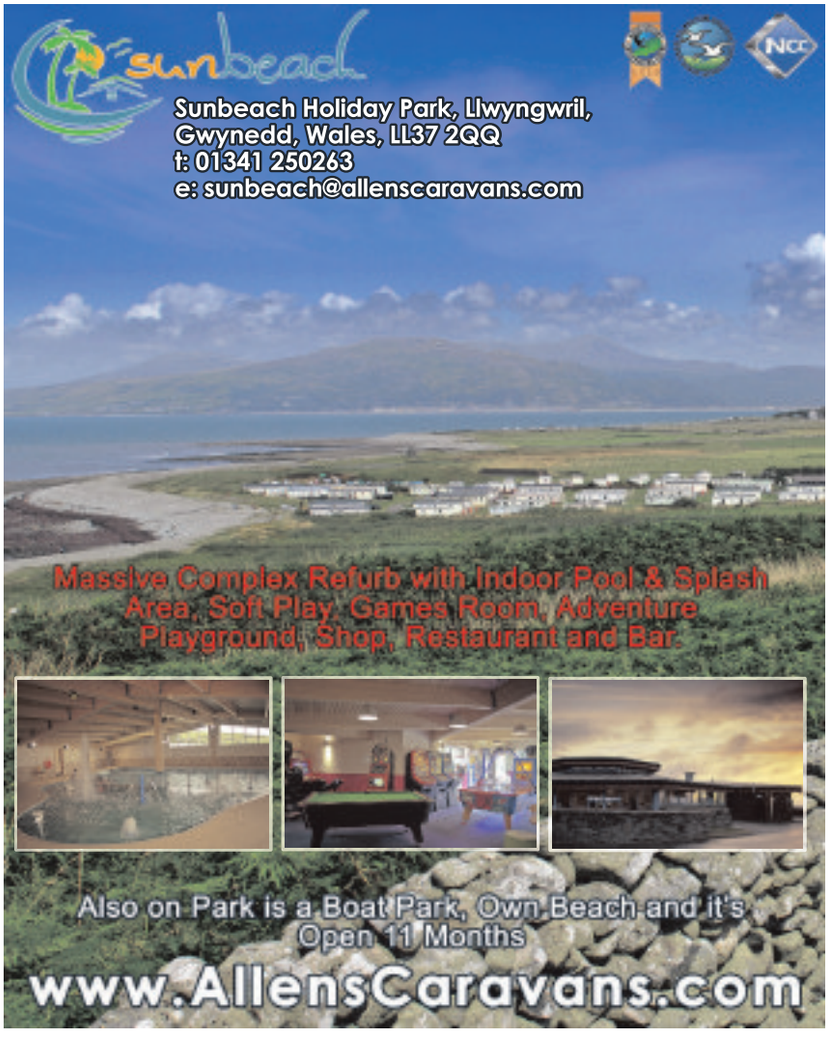
Stratford itself still follows a medieval grid pattern of streets and it's easy to navigate. However, a lovely way to view the town from a different angle is along the River Avon be it via a rowing boat, motorboat, canoe or punt. We enjoyed a 40-minute river cruise thanks to Avon Boating.

Everywhere you turn in Stratford there are historic buildings but if you want to really submerge yourself in the experience I recommend the four-star Macdonald Alveston Manor Hotel, just minutes from the town but offering an oasis of tranquillity.

Stratford offers a range of restaurants to suit every budget from a Marco Pierre White to Wetherspoons, but you would be missing out on a real treat if you didn't dine at the hotel's award-winning Manor Restaurant.

If you are looking for something to do with the children there are several attractions such as Tudor World, ghost walks, or the Butterfly Farm.

Should you have time to spare there are a host of shops in the town from high street stores, to more exclusive names and some unique businesses. So the question now is not 'to be in Stratford or not to be' – rather when will we be there again?



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CHOICE

Tony Robinson

Britain's Best Loved Sitcoms (Channel 4, 8pm)
Over the years they have made us laugh, occasionally cry and have turned jobbing actors into household names. They are of course situation comedies, and Blighty has produced some of the best the world has ever seen. Tamsin Greig has starred in a few of her own, including Episodes, Black Books and the wonderfully surreal Green Wing, so who better to narrate this two-part countdown of the nation's favourite based on a recent poll? Whether you're a fan of old school classics like Dad's Army, or the ratings-busting Mrs Brown's Boys, there's a little something for everyone here. It also features interviews with a host of famous faces, including Brendan O'Carroll, Richard Wilson, Tony Robinson and Wendy Craig.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** Rugby League: Super League Play-Offs. **2.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **3.00** Escape to the Continent. (R) **4.00** Final Score. **5.10** BBC News. **5.20** Regional Programme. **5.30** Pointless Celebrities.

6.20 Strictly Come Dancing. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present the first of this weekend's two shows – and this is when things get serious. There are no more second chances for the twinkle-toed stars as they and their partners step out onto the dance floor again. Tomorrow the first pro-celebrity couple will be leaving the competition, as their scores from judges Len Goodman, Bruno Tonioli, Craig Revel Horwood and Darcey Bussell are added to those of the voting viewers. But which pair will have performed their last dance? The ladies taking to the floor are Anita Rani, Carol Kirkwood, Georgia May Foote, Helen George, Jamelia, Katie Derham, Kellie Bright and Kirsty Gallacher. Up for the men are Ainsley Harriott, Anthony Ogogo, Daniel O'Donnell, Iwan Thomas, Jay McGuiness, Jeremy Vine and Peter Andre. The results can be seen tomorrow.

8.25 Doctor Who. When an underwater base comes under attack, the Doctor and Clara must save the frightened crew and defeat an impossible threat that appears to be turning the dead into ghosts.

9.10 Casualty. Iain and Dixie are pushed to the limit during a training exercise, while Dylan and Lofty treat an accident-prone patient.

10.00 The National Lottery Live. The all-important winning numbers are revealed by Gaby Roslin.

10.10 BBC News; Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Manchester City v Newcastle United; National Lottery Update.

11.55 Film: Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy. (2004) Comedy set in the 1970s, starring Will Ferrell and Christina Applegate.

1.25 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.30** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Film: Gunga Din. (1939) **7.55 Film:** Dean Spanley. (2008) **9.30** The Women's Football Show. (R) **10.00** Animal Park. (R) **10.30** More Creatures Great and Small. (R) **11.00** Animal SOS. (R) **11.30** Animal SOS. (R) **12.00** Great British Menu. (R) **12.30** Great British Menu. (R) **1.00** Great British Menu. (R) **1.30** Great British Menu. (R) **2.00 Film:** Silk Stockings. (1957) **3.55** Flog It! (R) **4.55** World's Busiest Railway 2015. (R) **5.55** The Hairy Bikers' Northern Exposure. (R)

6.55 Gardeners' World. Fashion designer Zandra Rhodes explains how flowers influence her work. (R)

7.30 Natural World: Honey Badgers – Masters of Mayhem. A scientist, a beekeeper and a conservationist from South Africa set out to discover if the honey badger's reputation as one of the most fearless animals in the world is justified. (R)

8.25 Dad's Army. (R)

9.00 Cradle to Grave. Danny finally enters Miss Blondel's darkroom. (R)

9.30 Boy Meets Girl. Leo is given a trial at a car showroom. (R)

10.00 The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice. 11 17776 15oks back at Wednesday's semi-final, remembering the highlights and presenting unseen footage from the tent as the four remaining bakers competed for the three places in next week's final. This week the theme was chocolate , and here Jo and her fellow panellists meet the unlucky contestant whose efforts weren't quite good enough to impress Paul Hollywood and Mary Berry. They also review the bakers' efforts. What will they think of their signature chocolate tarts? Who rose to the chocolate soufflé technical? And whose showstopping 3D chocolate centrepiece was the centre of attention? They also taste bakes brought in by the studio audience and look at photos of cakes sent in by viewers. It makes you hungry just watching it. (R)

10.30 In Case You Missed It. Dara O Briain hosts a unique TV review show. (R)

11.00 Film: Hunky Dory. (2011) Comedy drama, starring Minnie Driver.

12.40 Film: Skeletons. (2010) **2.15** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.50** Sooty. (R) **7.05** Fish Hooks. **7.25** Adventure Time. **7.45** Marvel Avengers Assemble. **8.15** Horrid Henry. **8.30** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **9.00** Jessie. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Unforgettable Frankie Howerd. (R) **10.00** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **10.45** The X Factor. (R) **12.45** ITV News; Weather. **12.55** Downton Abbey. (R) **2.00** Rugby World Cup. Samoa v Japan (Kick-off 2.30pm). **4.20** Rugby World Cup. South Africa v Scotland (Kick-off 4.45pm).

6.50 Regional Programme; Weather.

7.00 ITV News; Weather.

7.15 Rugby World Cup. England v Australia (Kick-off 8.00pm). Coverage of the Pool A contest from Twickenham, as the teams play their third match of the tournament. These nations have faced each other at five of the seven previous World Cups, and it is England who have the better record of those meetings, winning three of them. The most notable of those from an England perspective was the 20-17 victory in the 2003 final in Sydney, which went some way to avenging the 12-6 loss they suffered in the 1991 final at Twickenham, and provided the national team with its greatest ever moment. Presented by John Inverdale, with analysis from Clive Woodward, Jonny Wilkinson, Michael Lynagh, Jason Robinson and Danny Cipriani, and commentary by Nick Mullins, Lawrence Dallaglio and Ben Kay.

10.15 Through the Keyhole. Keith Lemon snoops around the homes of three mystery celebrities, inviting Mark Wright, Janet Street-Porter and Vernon Kay to guess their identities.

11.15 ITV News; Weather.

11.35 Rugby World Cup Highlights. Samoa v Japan, South Africa v Scotland and England v Australia. Mark Durden-Smith presents action from the matches staged at Stadium mk, St James' Park and Twickenham respectively.

12.35 Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas. **3.00** Show Me the Telly. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. Text-based information service.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.05** World Mountain Running Championships. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.50** Come Dine with Me. (R) **11.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **11.55** Come Dine with Me. (R) **12.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **12.55** Come Dine with Me. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Ascot, Newmarket and Redcar. **4.10** Channel 4 News. **4.35** Couples Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.20** Couples Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.05 Location, Location, Location. Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer are in south-west London, helping long-distance partners Jason and Jaye, and Hannah and Frank, who are searching for a family home. (R)

7.00 Celebrity Benchmark. Chris Ramsey and Joe Swash battle it out for the contestant's chair as Paddy McGuinness hosts another star-studded round of the game show. This week, the Benchmarkers are Phil Tufnell, Susie Dent, Jason Byrne, Bobby George, Michelle Heaton, Louis Smith, Edwina Currie, Mark Watson and James Haskell, and the star who wins the opening duel must assess how well the celebrity panel answered to a series of tricky numerical questions if they hope to win £50,000 for their chosen charity.

8.00 Britain's Best Loved Sitcoms. Part one of two. Tamsin Greig narrates this tribute to the shows that have made millions laugh over the past 50 years, including Dad's Army and Mrs Brown's Boys.

9.00 Film: Bridesmaids. (2011) A disorganised woman is asked to be maid of honour at her best friend's wedding. Taking charge of the prenuptial bridal celebrations, she resolves to give her pal and accompanying bridesmaids the time of their lives, but as her efforts slide into chaos she finds the wife of the groom's boss is keen to usurp her position. Comedy, with Kristen Wiig.

11.30 Film: Hope Springs. (2012) Romantic comedy, with Meryl Streep.

1.25 Alan Carr: Chatty Man. (R) **2.20** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.25** Hugh's 3 Good Things: Best Bites. (R) **4.35** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.25** Fifteen to One. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** SpongeBob SquarePants. **10.35** Access. **10.50** Cowboy Builders. (R) **11.50** Cowboy Builders. (R) **12.50 Film:** Crazy for Christmas. (2005) Family drama, starring Andrea Roth. **2.45 Film:** A Christmas Kiss. (2011) Romantic drama, with Laura Breckenridge and Brendan Fehr. **4.30 Film:** Help for Christmas. (2012)

6.10 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Kevin Stokes and Brian O'Shaughnessy chase a £16,000 debt run up by a coach company and Stewart McCracken and Elmor Victor face a heartbreaking house repossession. (R)

7.05 Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops. This week's collection of viral videos features a woman who decides to conduct a yoga session too close to the sea and a junior weightlifter who smashes a fish tank.

7.35 Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops. This week's collection of videos focuses on the theme of being in the wrong place at the wrong time, and features a pub worker who does not realise a cellar door is open.

8.00 Now That's Funny! The series showcasing the most hilarious internet videos continues with a woman attempting to break a world record with marshmallows.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Football League Tonight. Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the weekend's top matches, including Leeds United v Birmingham City.

10.30 Michael Buble's Christmas Special. The Grammy-winning Canadian crooner performs classic festive songs, featuring duets with Mary J Blige, Mariah Carey and the Cookie Monster. Part of Channel 5's Christmas Comes Early season. (R)

11.25 My Crazy Christmas Obsession. First of a two-part documentary about people obsessed with the festive period, beginning by following four American households who take decorations to the extreme. Part of Channel 5's Christmas Comes Early season. (R)

12.25 The Gadget Show. (R) **1.20** SuperCasino. **3.10** The Yorkshire Vet. (R) **4.00** Body Donors. (R) **4.50** Make It Big. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Don't Tell the Bride **8.00 Film:** Confessions of a Shopaholic (2009) **9.40 Film:** Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides (2011) **11.45** Family Guy **1.55** Asian Provocateur **2.25** Orphan Black **3.55** Close

BBC Four
7.00 Three Men Go to Scotland **8.00** The Search for Alfred the Great **9.00** Beck: The Invasion **10.30** Biggest Band Break Ups and Make Ups **11.30** Music for Misfits: The Story of Indie **12.30** Top of the Pops: 1980 **1.05** A Very British Murder with Lucy Worsley **2.05 Film:** Joy Division (2008) **3.40** Close

ITV2
11.05 The Cube Celebrity Special: McFly **12.10** You've Been Framed: Kids! **1.10** The X Factor **3.15** The Xtra Factor **4.20** Catchphrase **5.00 Film:** The Polar Express (2004) **6.55 Film:** Rumour Has It (2005) **9.00 Film:** Practical Magic (1998) **11.15** Celebrity Juice **12.05** The Almost Impossible Gameshow **1.05** Release the Hounds **1.55** Safeword **2.30** Rixton: The Hot Desk **2.40** Teleshopping **5.40** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
12.25 Inspector Morse **2.45** Foyle's War **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** Lewis **10.00** A Touch of Frost **12.00** Inspector Morse **2.05** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
11.20 Pawn Stars **12.50** Goodwood Cars of the Future – Road **1.50** Goodwood Classic Cars **2.50** BRDC Formula 4 Championship Highlights **3.50** British Touring Car Championship Highlights **5.20** Pawn Stars **7.10 Film:** Police Academy 4: Citizens on Patrol (1987) **9.00 Film:** The Blues Brothers (1980) **11.35 Film:** The Day of the Jackal (1973) **2.25** Hogan's Heroes **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
11.00 The Goldbergs **12.00 Film:** Horton Hears a Who! (2008) **1.45** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **2.00** The Big Bang Theory: Access All Areas **2.30** The Big Bang Theory **6.00 Film:** Bride Wars (2009) **7.45** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **8.00** The Big Bang Theory: Top 5 Raj **10.30** Gogglebox **12.40** Bad Robots **1.15** How to Pull the Date of Your Dreams **1.45** The Inbetweeners **2.40** How I Met Your Mother **3.25** Rules of Engagement **4.15** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **4.40** Revenge

Film4
11.00 City of Ember (2008) **1.00** Catch That Kid (2004) **2.45** The Iron Giant (1999) **4.25** Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (2009) **6.10** Robin Hood (2010) **8.55** Macbeth Interview Special **9.00** Iron Man (2008) **11.25** V/H/S/2 (2013) **1.20** Memento (2000) **3.40** Close

CHOICE

Anne-Marie Duff

From Darkness (BBC1, 9pm)

The Beeb's short but sweet series of adaptations of 20th century literature classics is now over, but don't worry drama fans because replacing it is this dark offering. Anne-Marie Duff heads the cast as Claire Church, a former officer with Manchester police who quit the force after becoming disillusioned with the job. She now lives in the remote Western Isles with her partner and daughter, but her past is about to catch up with her. Claire's former mentor, DCI John Hind, thinks that bodies found on a building site could be linked to a case involving missing women, which only Claire seemed to care about back in 1998. But can he persuade her to help him discover the truth? And are his motives entirely professional?

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** The Great British Bake Off. (R) **3.00** Eat Well for Less? (R) **4.00** Points of View. **4.15** Songs of Praise. **4.50** The Great British Bake Off Class of 2014. **5.50** BBC News.

6.10 Regional Programme.

6.15 Countryfile. The latest rural developments, including reports on issues affecting country communities and insights into the life of the modern farmer. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

7.15 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman host the results show, as the judges choose between the two couples with the lowest scores. Rod Stewart provides the music.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents the show from Durham Cathedral, where she examines a collection of rare books, including an early version of the Magna Carta, and John Axford examines a rare 19th-century plate. Objects brought in to be valued include a carriage clock found on a bomb site, an early drawing by Laura Knight, a 19th-century missionary's medical kit and a collection of football memorabilia.

9.00 From Darkness. New series. Former Greater Manchester Police officer Claire Church's peaceful existence in the Western Isles is shattered when four bodies linked to her previous investigations are unearthed. The subsequent inquiry forces her to revisit her troubled past in law enforcement, and drags her back into a world she thought she had left behind for good. Psychological crime drama, written by Katie Baxendale, and starring Anne-Marie Duff.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, featuring Everton v Liverpool, Arsenal v Manchester United and Swansea City v Tottenham Hotspur.

11.45 The Women's Football Show.

12.15 Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.20** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 The Instant Gardener. (R) **7.00** Countryfile. (R) **8.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **10.30** Great British Menu. (R) **11.00** Live Athletics. **2.00** NFL Live.

6.00 Super League Play-Offs. Tanya Arnold introduces action from the Million Pound Game, which decided who claimed the final place in next season's Super League.

7.00 Patagonia: Earth's Secret Paradise. The programme follows the path of the relentless wind sweeping east through Patagonia's dry desert, revealing the animals and people carving out a home in the arid environment. (R)

8.00 Licence to Thrill – Paul Hollywood Meets Aston Martin. The Great British Bake Off's Paul Hollywood indulges his passion for Aston Martin cars, test-driving various models, and making an attempt to join one of Aston's racing teams.

9.00 Special Forces – Ultimate Hell Week. Andrew Flintoff puts the contenders through the final challenge, as they undertake a gruelling 48 hours of mental and physical challenges with the British SAS. Last in the series.

10.00 Family Guy. Joe decides to embrace life by quitting his job with the police and taking the guys on a road trip to the Niagara Falls, where he makes an unexpected decision.

10.20 Family Guy. Bobby Briggs, the criminal who crippled Joe years before, breaks out of jail – but he does not bargain on the community's hostile reception, led by Peter, Joe and Quagmire.

10.45 Family Guy. Lois has an image change.

11.05 Top Coppers. New series. Police crime drama spoof, following the exploits of Justice City detectives John Mahogany and Mitch Rust. Starring Steen Raskopoulos and John Kearns.

11.35 Film: Lucky Them. (2013) Premiere. A journalist is assigned to track down a rock star she once had a relationship with, who has since disappeared. Comedy drama, with Toni Collette.

1.05 Film: Love. (2011) **2.25** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **3.20** Holby City. (R) **4.20** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.20** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Signed Stories; Share a Story. (R) **6.50** Sooty. (R) **7.05** Fish Hooks. **7.25** Matt Hatter Chronicles. **7.45** Marvel Avengers Assemble. **8.15** Horrid Henry. **8.30** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **9.00** Horrible Science. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.35** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.35** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.40** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.45** ITV News; Weather. **2.00** Rugby World Cup. Argentina v Tonga (Kick-off 2.30pm). **4.20** Rugby World Cup. Ireland v Italy (Kick-off 4.45pm).

6.45 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.55 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 The X Factor. The first stage of this year's three-part Six Chair Challenge arrives, in which judges Simon Cowell, Rita Ora, Nick Grimshaw and Cheryl Fernandez-Versini are given the opportunity to pick six acts to champion through to the later stages of the contest. The format has the potential to generate a great deal of drama in the studio, as the judges have the right to switch acts in and out of their line-up whenever they choose. Girl group 4th Power, 17-year-old singer Louisa Johnson and youth worker Monica Michael are among the would-be stars who have already secured a place in this round of the contest, but it remains to be seen whether any of them will be able to win over the panel and progress further.

9.00 Downton Abbey. Mr Carson and Mrs Hughes' wedding arrives, bringing with it a few unexpected guests. Meanwhile, as tensions mount over the hospital takeover, Isobel offends a friend.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.15 Rugby World Cup Highlights. Argentina v Tonga and Ireland v Italy. Mark Durden-Smith presents action from the latest matches.

11.15 Perspectives: The Great American Love Song with Nicky Campbell. The broadcaster reveals his passion for the music of 1920s and 1930s New York, choosing six timeless love songs from the era and finding out about the artists who wrote them. (R)

12.20 Murder, She Wrote. (R) **1.15** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.20 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.05** Caterham Motorsport. **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Channel 4 Racing: Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe. Including the feature race at 2.55. **4.00** The Simpsons. (R) **4.30 Film:** School of Rock. (2003) Comedy, starring Jack Black.

6.40 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Homes by the Sea. New series. Charlie Luxton visits seaside properties across Britain, beginning in Cornwall, where he visits a listed engine house at Porthtowan and a tithe barn in Bude. Previously seen on More4.

8.00 Cleopatra's Lost Tomb. An insight into the work of archaeologist Dr Kathleen Martinez, whose unorthodox theories led to the discovery of a tomb that may be the final resting place of Egypt's last queen.

9.00 This Is England '90. Shane Meadows' gritty chronicle of working-class life in the Midlands concludes with this, the last entry in the the 1990-set tale, and the final part of the decade-spanning story of Woody, Lol, Shaun and friends. As winter arrives, there is a promise of new beginnings for Combo, Woody and Lol, but nothing is ever as simple as it seems. Shaun has grown into the man he was always meant to be, and Milky must deal with demons from his past. Meanwhile, Kelly strays drastically from the path, and only she can decide whether she will ever get her life back on track. Starring Joe Gilgun, Vicky McClure, Thomas Turgoose and Chanel Cresswell. Last in the series.

10.40 Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. Narrated by Caroline Aherne. (R)

11.45 Embarrassing Bodies: The 36-Stone Woman. The doctors catch up with Patience, who at 36-stone was morbidly obese when she first sought help with her weight, and has spent two years trying to gain control of her body.

12.45 Film: The Stone Roses: Made of Stone. (2013) **2.30** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.10** Fifteen to One. (R) **5.00** Location, Location, Location. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.45** Tickety Toc. (R) **6.55** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.15** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.25** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **7.55** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **8.05** Zack and Quack. (R) **8.20** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.35** Jelly Jamm. (R) **8.55** LazyTown. (R) **9.20** Dora and Friends. (R) **9.50** SpongeBob SquarePants. **10.25** Football League Tonight. (R) **11.55** Access. (R) **12.05** The Dog Rescuers at Xmas with Alan Davies. (R) **1.05** My Crazy Christmas Obsession. (R) **2.10 Film:** My Santa. (2013) Drama, starring Samaire Armstrong. **3.50 Film:** The Horse Whisperer. (1998) Drama, starring Robert Redford.

7.05 5 News Weekend.

7.10 Film: Hancock. (2008) A reluctant, alcoholic superhero ends up the most hated man in Los Angeles thanks to his habit of causing mayhem and destruction while trying to do good. However, when he saves the life of a PR guru, the grateful executive sets about transforming the public perception of the crime-fighter, despite his wife's strong misgivings. Comedy, starring Will Smith, Jason Bateman and Charlize Theron. Edited for pre-watershed broadcast.

9.00 Film: That's My Boy. (2012) Premiere. A teenager fathers a child and raises him alone, but when the boy grows up, he no longer wants anything to do with his drunken, irresponsible parent. As he prepares to get married, the son finds his father gatecrashing the wedding, desperate to rebuild their relationship but just as obnoxious as ever. Comedy, starring Adam Sandler and Andy Samberg.

11.20 Film: I Now Pronounce You Chuck & Larry. (2007) A fireman asks a male colleague to pretend to marry him to get round a problem with his late wife's life insurance policy. Comedy, with Adam Sandler, Kevin James and Jessica Biel.

1.30 SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.10** Nevada Triangle: The Missing Evidence. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Don't Tell the Bride **8.00** Top Gear **9.00 Film:** Tropic Thunder (2008) **10.40** Russell Howard's Good News **11.05** Family Guy **11.50** American Dad! **12.10** Family Guy **12.30** Asian Provocateur **1.00** KKK: The Fight for White Supremacy **2.00** Fried **2.30** Don't Tell the Bride

BBC Four

7.00 The Other Pompeii: Life and Death in Herculaneum **8.00** Woolly Mammoth: Secrets from the Ice **9.00** Rome's Lost Empire **10.30** TOTP2 **11.00** Jazz Piano Gold **12.00** Georgie Fame: The Birth of Cool **1.00** Bought with Love: The Secret History of British Art Collections **2.00** TOTP2

ITV2

11.40 The Almost Impossible Gameshow **12.40** You've Been Framed! **1.10 Film:** Uncle Buck (1989) **3.05 Film:** Beethoven (1992) **4.55 Film:** She's the Man (2006) **7.00 Film:** Stormbreaker (2006) **9.00** The Xtra Factor **10.00 Film:** American Pie: The Wedding (2003) **12.00 Film:** Billy Madison (1995) **1.45** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.10** Rizzle Kicks: The Hot Desk **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

11.10 Murder, She Wrote **12.15** Inspector Morse **2.30 Film:** Ben-Hur (1959) **6.50** Foyle's War **9.00** Sunday Night at the Palladium **10.00** Birds of a Feather **10.30** City Lights **11.35 Film:** Private Benjamin (1980) **1.50** Murder, She Wrote **2.40** Doctor in the House

ITV4

11.55 Rugby World Cup Highlights **1.00 Film:** Dunkirk (1958) **3.45 Film:** Battle of the Bulge (1965) **7.00** Goodwood Cars of the Future – Road **8.00** Goodwood Classic Cars **9.00 Film:** Apocalypse Now (1979) **12.05 Film:** The Quest (1996) **2.00** Hell on Wheels **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

12.35 Film: Planet 51 (2009) **2.20** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **2.30** Couples Come Dine with Me **4.30** Bad(ish) Robots **5.00** Rude(ish) Tube **5.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** X-Men Origins: Wolverine (2009) **11.10** The Inbetweeners **12.10** The IT Crowd **1.15** Rude Tube **2.20** Young, Free & Single

Film4

11.00 The Last Wagon (1956) **1.00** Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian (2009) **3.10** The Rugrats Movie (1999) **4.45** New in Town (2009) **6.40** The Perks of Being a Wallflower (2012) **9.00** Taken (2008) **10.50** Machete (2010) **12.55** The Wind That Shakes the Barley (2006)

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
The Four Feathers, Channel 5, 10pm
An officer resigns from the military, earning the disdain of his friends – so he sets out to win back their respect. Historical adventure, starring Heath Ledger and Wes Bentley. (2002)

TUESDAY
Guilty at 17, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A teenager believes her friend when she lies about being sexually harassed by a teacher, and falsely claims to have witnessed an incident. When the accused teacher commits suicide, she is consumed with guilt and begins to suspect she has been deceived. Crime drama, starring Erin Sanders. (2014)

WEDNESDAY
Obsession, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A woman receives a promotion at work that entails moving to a different city, so decides to end her relationship with her controlling boyfriend and make a fresh start. However, he does not take kindly to the rejection and begins stalking her, hoping to terrorise her into coming back to him. Thriller, starring Charisma Carpenter and Dylan Neal. (2011)

The Punisher, Thursday, Channel 5, 10pm

THURSDAY
The Punisher, Channel 5, 10pm
FBI agent Frank Castle enrages a powerful gangland kingpin when a gunfight accidentally causes the death of the mobster's son. The crime boss retaliates by wiping out Castle's entire family, but the lawman reinvents himself as a vigilante, acting as judge, jury and executioner to the underworld. Thriller based on the Marvel comic-book anti-hero, starring Thomas Jane, John Travolta, Will Patton, Rebecca Romijn and Roy Scheider. (2004)

FRIDAY
Lay the Favorite, BBC1, 11.55pm
A former stripper goes to Las Vegas to seek her fortune, but ends up working as a cocktail waitress. However, a professional gambler hires her to help with his scams and she soon proves to have a knack for it – but arouses the jealousy of her mentor's wife. Comedy, starring Rebecca Hall. (2012)

Taking a fascinating look behind the scenes

When Wayne Rooney blasted home a penalty past Swiss keeper Yann Sommer in England's 2-0 European Qualifying win at Wembley last month, it marked a milestone in the career of the 29-year-old England captain.

It was Rooney's 50th goal for his country and saw him overtake Sir Bobby Charlton's record to become the national team's all-time top scorer.

Now, to mark the achievement the Manchester United striker has given cameras unique access to his life and family, including wife Coleen, their sons Kai and Klay, and all four of the boys' grandparents.

"I have been approached many times about allowing the cameras into our lives and always said no," Rooney says.

"But now seems the right time. This film is not just about my goals, it's about the people I care about the most, my team mates, the people closest to me but most importantly, my family."

The film, presented by Gary Lineker, takes Rooney back to the housing estates in Merseyside where he grew up as an Everton fan.

Born in Croxteth, Liverpool, Rooney began playing for Liverpool Schoolboys and Copplehouse boys' club in the local Walton and Kirkdale junior league, before being spotted by Everton scout Bob Pendleton.

Rooney joined Everton aged nine, and was mascot for Toffees in the Merseyside derby as an 11-year-old.

Then on 19 October 2002, five days before his 17th birthday, Rooney scored the winner against Arsenal to end the Gunners' 30-match unbeaten run, and make his the youngest goalscorer in Premier League history.

Rooney also became the youngest player to play for England when he earned his first cap in a friendly against Australia in 2003 aged 17 years and 111 days, and since then Rooney has continued to shine for club and country.

But despite spending his footballing career in the spotlight, Rooney has mostly attempted to keep his private life – with a few highly publicised exceptions.

However, Lineker, who is now third behind Rooney in the list of England scorers with 48, says: "I think that our film will allow the public to discover the real Wayne Rooney.

"It's been great spending time with him and the whole Rooney family. Remember also that Wayne is still only 29, he could push this record considerably higher yet."

Following his journey from humble beginnings to bona fide world-class footballer and record-breaker, this exclusive film promises to show Wayne's world off the pitch.

And according to Tony Pastor, Goalhanger Films creative director, it will be an eye-opener for most football fans. He says: "This film will change many people's view of Wayne Rooney.

"He's an intelligent and thoughtful man with a lot to say about football, family and what it means to represent his country."

With access to Old Trafford and at the England camp, the public will hear first-hand about 'Wazza's' rise to the top – and how those closest to him influenced his career.

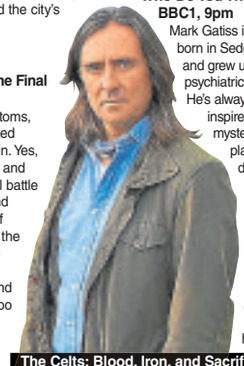
Rooney: The Man Behind the Goals, Monday, BBC1, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
The Celts: Blood, Iron, and Sacrifice with Alice Roberts and Neil Oliver
BBC2, 9pm
New series. Anthropologist Alice Roberts and archaeologist Neil Oliver explore the origins and beliefs of the ancient group of peoples, looking at their highly sophisticated tribal culture and influence on vast areas of the ancient world. They begin by examining the origins of the Celts in the Alps of Central Europe and the moment they first came into contact with the Romans, revealing the pivotal battles that took place between the two rivals came to define the future direction of European civilisation and the shape of the modern-day world.

TUESDAY
Lewis
ITV, 9pm
It's 10 years since Kevin Whately returned to the Morse universe to play Robbie Lewis. In that time, this spin-off series has become hugely popular - almost as big as the drama that spawned it - and is a global success. It looks set to continue for some time too, because the standard of the scripts is as high as ever. The latest run begins with a two-part case for Lewis and his sidekick Hathaway. The duo have a new boss to contend with - Chief Superintendent Moody – who isn't sure that Lewis should have come out of retirement, putting pressure on the veteran detective to solve the crime as quickly as impossible. It involves the remains of a body found down a well, and takes Oxford's finest into the complex worlds of social media, drugs, taxidermy, art, the homeless and the city's colleges.

WEDNESDAY
The Great British Bake Off: The Final
BBC1, 8pm
After weeks of risking soggy bottoms, limp crispbreads and undercooked sponge, only three bakers remain. Yes, it's time for the 2015 grand final, and you can bet that the trio who will battle it out for the engraved cake stand (can't the show's makers think of something more spectacular for the winner?) are more nervous than ever before. Just three more challenges stand before them and the much-coveted title, and it's too close a competition to call. The signature challenge involves turning enriched dough into filled ice buns. That's followed by the notoriously difficult technical, and then the final chance to impress – the showstopper, which this year will see them bake classic British cakes.


The Celts: Blood, Iron, and Sacrifice with Alice Roberts and Neil Oliver, Monday, BBC2, 9pm

Thursday
Who Do You Think You Are?
BBC1, 9pm
Mark Gatiss is the youngest of three children born in Sedgefield, County Durham, in 1966 and grew up opposite the imposing Edwardian psychiatric hospital where his father worked. He's always believed the place at least partly inspired his love of all things gothic and mysterious – is he right, or do his genes play a part? Gatiss hopes to find out during this episode, during which he researches his maternal line during a trip to Northern Ireland. He discovers his ancestors were story-tellers, which Gatiss, as a writer as well as an actor, certainly is too. But it's the news that they were also regarded as the real-life version of Dracula's Dr Van Helsing that really shocks him. Sometimes, fact really is stranger than fiction.

Friday
Great British Menu
BBC2, 7pm
The final sees the remaining chefs at London's historic Drapers' Hall, tasked to serve up a menu of dishes to mark the centenary of the Women's Institute, serving the ladies, their current chair Janice Langely, Angela Baker who helped inspire the Calendar Girls initiative, and many other guests. The menu was chosen by judges Oliver Peyton, Prue Leith and Matthew Fort from the dishes that had been shortlisted, and to make this all-frills banquet the competitors had to secure a place on that list at least once. Last in the series.

Euro 2016 Qualifier Live
ITV, 7.15pm
England have already secured their place in next year's finals in France, and play their penultimate match of their Group E campaign against Estonia at Wembley Stadium. Although some may regard this as a dead rubber, Roy Hodgson's hosts will be eager to maintain their 100-per-cent record in the group, and the Estonians still have slim hopes of qualifying for the play-offs. The reverse fixture 12 months ago saw England claim a narrow victory thanks to their now all-time top scorer Wayne Rooney breaking the deadlock 16 minutes from time.

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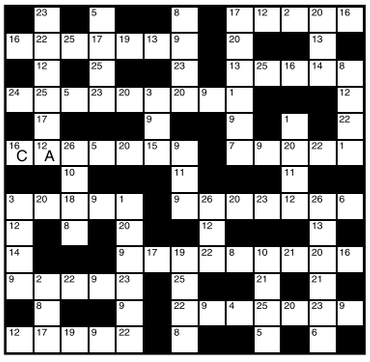
Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, October 1, 2015

BRAIN GYM No.345

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
G	H	T	Z	S	M	C	V	N	R	K	I	D
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
A	X	O	J	B	Y	Q	F	P	L	E	U	W

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

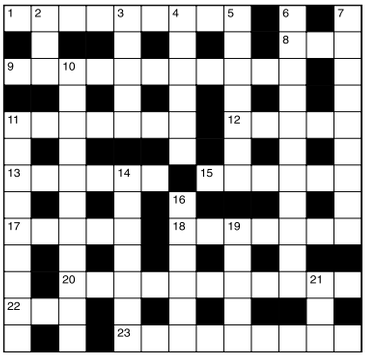
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Makes a joint plan to study architectural features of churches (9)
8. Organised part of 6 Down (3)
9. Just the spot to show a decline in the tide level (4,2,5)
11. Patricia Bird is a model (7)
12. Use some of the water in sea - to do this? (5)
13. About class improvement in organisation (6)
15. Peaceful love-song without any advertisement (6)
17. Clubs used on naval defaulters (5)
18. As an alternative to being badly stained (7)
20. He attends to cases after dark (5-6)
22. Nothing to the theologian is strange? (3)
23. A gem of a game! (9)

Down

2. Blade used for beheading a pig (3)
3. See 21 Down
4. Rig now adopted for going on the river (6)
5. No longer confine the clique without charge (3,4)
6. Disposition modified by great manner (11)
7. Where you'll find the star before everybody else (2,3,4)
10. Describing the exhausted jumper beyond the pale! (3,2,6)
11. Convert pride into ruin (9)
14. Stays in the office no longer (7)
16. Weapon is used in intricate plot (6)
19. Porter carrying too much weight! (5)
21 & 3Dn. A heady device for picking up a signal! (3-5)



Quick Clues:

Across

1. Wooing (9)
8. Self (3)
9. Successor (11)
11. Respire (7)
12. Mistake (5)
13. At one (6)
15. Fame (6)
17. Pulls (5)
18. Lift up (7)
20. Sincerity (11)
22. Iniquity (3)
23. Resolve (9)

Down

2. Poem (3)
3. Pamphlet (5)
4. Obeyed (6)
5. Go before (7)
6. Worsen (11)
7. Consistency (9)
10. Plight (11)
11. Vast (9)
14. Made certain (7)
16. Turn back (6)
19. Come in (5)
21. Boy (3)

Sudoku

					2	1	7	
	3		9	1			6	
		2			5		9	3
	9	4		8		6		
8			1		4			
		7		3			8	
4	5		8			7		
	7			2	9			8
	8	1					4	

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

9	3	7	1	2	4	5	6	8
5	8	2	7	3	6	9	1	4
6	1	4	8	9	5	7	2	3
3	5	6	9	8	1	2	4	7
8	2	9	5	4	7	1	3	6
7	4	1	2	6	3	8	9	5
1	7	3	4	5	2	6	8	9
2	6	8	3	7	9	4	5	1
4	9	5	6	1	8	3	7	2

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Set-off; 4 Assail; 9 All for nothing; 10 Imparts; 11 Least; 12 Tonic; 14 Cross; 18 Reels; 19 Carmine; 21 Fair condition; 22 Enlist; 23 Teaser. Down: 1 Static; 2 Telephone bill; 3 Floor; 5 Settler; 6 Animal spirits; 7 Lights; 8 In use; 13 Insects; 15 Trifle; 16 Scene; 17 Leaner; 20 Raise. QUICK - Across: 1 Appear; 4 Proper; 9 Correspondent; 10 Shelter; 11 Occur; 12 Edict; 14 Group; 18 Incur; 19 Inflate; 21 Collaborating; 22 Daring; 23 Chance. Down: 1 Access; 2 Perpendicular; 3 Agent; 5 Rancour; 6 Preoccupation; 7 Retire; 8 Spare; 13 Certain; 15 Winced; 16 Minor; 17 League; 20 Flash.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. Who was the second president of the US?
2. On which river does Baghdad stand?
3. Which Soviet president died in 1985?
4. Which composer wrote The Sorcerer's Apprentice?
5. What was a farthingale?
6. What were W.S. Gilbert's forenames?
7. In which year did Marilyn Monroe marry Arthur Miller?
8. What is the busiest airport in France?
9. What is the oldest university in Scotland?
10. What is a lazy Susan?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 1900; 2 Macbeth; 3 Cherry; 4 1890; 5 A single dot on a computer screen; 6 Ajaccio; 7 Coulomb; 8 Marcel Duchamp; 9 Morocco; 10 BRN.

Niner: FACETIOUS

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

269 gives a girl's name,
8537 gives another girl's name,
471824 gives a boy's name.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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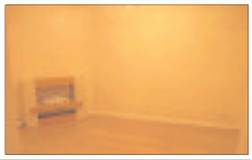

VANBOROUGH WALK DUDLEY

A three bedroom semi detached property in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises of: Porch, open plan lounge/diner, fitted kitchen,three bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas fire central heating, double glazing, front and rear gardens, garage and off road parking.

UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS:NO CHILDREN:YES PETS:NO SMOKERS: NO

£595PCM DEPOSIT £695 ● FEES

GAUDEN ROAD WOLLESCOTE

A beautifully presented first floor two bedroom apartment situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: L shaped reception hall, lounge, superb refitted kitchen, two bedrooms, separate WC and re-appointed bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, parking at rear and well tended lawned gardens surrounding the development.

UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£460.00PCM DEPOSIT £560 ● FEES

THE WOODLANDS CRADLEY HEATH

A well presented two bedroom mid terrace property situated in a pleasant residential location within a quite cul de sac. Accommodation comprises of Entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, conservatory and bathroom. The property further benefits from double glazing, front lawned garden, paved rear grden and communal off road parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C DSS:NO PETS:NO CHILDREN:YES SMOKERS:NO

£550.00PCM DEPOSIT £650 ● FEES

HUNGARY HILL STOURBRIDGE

A two bedroom semi detached property situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Hall, lounge, breakfast kitchen, utility room, two bedrooms, bathroom, front and rear gardens and garage. UNFURNISHED
EPC RATING = AWAITING DSS:NO PETS: MAY CONSIDER CHILDREN MAY CONSIDER SMOKERS: NO

£595PCM DEPOSIT £695 ● FEES

OLDHALL CLOSE AMBLECOTE

An extremely well presented and updated two bedroom semi detached property situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further boasts gas central heating, double glazing, off road parking with front gravelled garden and rear patio lawned garden. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£575PCM DEPOSIT £675 ● FEES

PROPERTY OF THE WEEK

DADFORD VIEW BRIERLEY HILL

An extremely well presented one bedroom first floor flat situated in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises of Lounge, kitchen, bedroom and bathroom. The property further benefits from electric heating and allocated parking.
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HILLWOOD ROAD HALESOWEN

A Well presented three bedroom semi detached property situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, rear lobby, three bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, double glazing and front and rear gardens. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = AWAITING DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£575PCM DEPOSIT £675 ● FEES

COCHRANE CLOSE PEDMORE

A Prestigious four bedroom detached property situated in a highly desirable residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, downstairs cloakroom, lounge/diner, kitchen, utility room, four bedrooms and bathroom. The property further boasts gas central heating, double glazing, garage, private driveway affording off road parking, carport, lawned foregarden and rear lawned garden with patio. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = F
DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£1200PCMDEPOSIT£1300●FEES

DADFORD VIEW BRIERLEY HILL

A two bedroom second floor apartment within a popular residential location within easy access to Brierley Hill and Merry Hill Centre. Accommodation comprises of Communal entrance, private entrance hall with built in storage cupboard, lounge, fully fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from partial storage heating and double glazing.
UNFURNISHED
EPC RATING =E" DSS:NO CHILDREN:YES PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO

£400PCM DEPOSIT £500 ●FEES

BEECH MEWS CRADLEY HEATH

A very well presented one bedroom starter home located in a quiet cul de sac. Accommodation comprises of lounge, kitchen, bathroom and bedroom. The property further benefits from double glazing and gas central heating.
UNFURNISHED EPC RATING - D DSS:NO PETS:NO CHILDREN:NO SMOKERS:NO

£395.00PCM DEPOSIT £495 ● FEES

Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, October 1, 2015

Mondeo man moves on up

By Bob Hickman

This year saw the arrival of the new Ford Mondeo, a car which has been around for a considerable time, but has now received a huge makeover with Ford's attempts to take it more upmarket – to perhaps attack the Audi A4 and BMW3 Series buyers.

It has a purpose in its design and does make a statement. The huge front grille area leaves no one in any doubt that this is the new Mondeo.

The interior of the vehicle was one of a well-honed, purpose-built package that does all it should do, nothing exciting, nothing to overwhelm you. The quality of the materials and the fittings all tick the relevant boxes because, after all, this is a Ford.

The wonderful eight-inch sync2 infotainment system is a delight and full of features. It had one feature that I had not come across before, my phone beeped when I was in a car park and I was able to read the text message on the screen. The system also allowed you to set the climate control and adjust music or to utilise the satnav system. However, I did find on occasions that I had to tap the screen somewhat severely to make it respond.

The amount of interior space is incredible. It seats five adults with ease, and the amount of room in the boot is absolutely superb, swallowing two full-size professional golf bags and trollies, and a suitcase as well. I believe it would be possible to actually sleep in the boot if you are camping fanatic, it is so big.

One feature that the cabin had was ample storage space and drink and cup holders.

Boon

My particular car had the £450 option of park assist and this has to be seen and tried to be believed. You drive along, press a button, the car spots a space on the left-hand side, tells you when to stop, engage reverse, take your hands off the steering wheel, and then just let the vehicle manoeuvre itself in to a parking space while you control the clutch and accelerator. It is an absolute boon, especially for those who do struggle with parallel parking.

There is a choice of five engines including a diminutive 1.1-litre Eco Boost. My particular derivative on test had an entry level 115ps 1.6-litre diesel engine which was somewhat lethargic – it really did need to be worked hard to get any performance. Although I have driven for many years I did stall it a few times in first gear, such was the gearing ratio.

Out on the open road it trundled along but the gearing again has been done for economy, fifth and sixth were an utter waste of time unless you were doing at least 50mph. The six-speed manual gearbox was smooth and it was a delight to operate it but I feel for me a bigger engine was needed because after all the Mondeo is a big car.

The economics of this vehicle are excellent, with just 94g/km of CO2 the tax bill will be zero.

Ford claim outlandish fuel figures which I won't even quote, suffice to say during my time with the vehicle and limited mileage, I achieved 50mpg around town and no long runs were entertained.

The Zetec is effectively an entry level but it came with 16in alloy wheels, power folding door mirrors, front fog lamps and an excellent DAB audio system. I particularly do like Ford's quick-clear heated front windscreen. A lot of other equipment is included as standard.

There is a lot to like about the new Mondeo, especially the improved exterior looks, but the winning factor for me is the interior space, not only in the cabin but in the boot. It really is a huge vehicle and if you have a family or four or five adults that travel together regularly it just has to be worth a look.

The derivative that I had on test had an on-the-road price of £22,095. Being a white vehicle, Ford decided to charge an extra £250, the navigational touchscreen system added £300. But the brilliant park assist system at £450, I think is a snip.

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Tyres should be top priority

DRIVERS in the UK are waiting until they are told they need new tyres before changing badly worn ones.

A survey shows 3.6 million drivers say they only have new tyres fitted to their car when the tread fails the MOT.

Worn tyres require 40 per cent more stopping distance from 50mph in dry conditions, which is equivalent to eight car lengths. This increases even more on wet roads. By leaving the fitment of new tyres until the MOT, these drivers are risking not only lives, but a £2,500 fine and three penalty points on their driving licence.

The legal minimum tread depth is 1.6mm across three-quarters of the tyre's width. However, it is wise to switch to new tyres before the tread wears down to this minimum to preserve the braking, handling and steering of your car at its best.

Roger Griggs, communications director at Kwik-Fit, said: "With vehicles being increasingly sophisticated in monitoring their own maintenance intervals, drivers are often leaving it to their cars to warn them of potential issues. Motorists should realise that responsibility for vehicle health and safety lies directly in their hands. Without proper care, motorists could land themselves either in legal trouble or in an incident on the road.

"Tyres should be the number one priority for drivers – after all, they are the only part of a car which keeps it on the road. Leading tyre manufacturers recommend that drivers change their tyres at 3mm of tread depth to maintain optimum performance. It's very worrying that so many drivers let their tread depth drop so low and leave it to the MOT to check – after all, that could be up to a year away."

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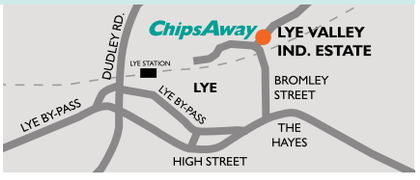

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DRIVETIME

New car? Why we all crave the new smell

Whether we mean to or not, we all make judgments about people based on the car they drive and what it says about them. A car becomes part of who we are. In fact, our relationship with the car is so strong that the right vehicle can make us appear better looking, well-off and even more sophisticated.

So it's no surprise that with a car being such a personal item, being able to take in that new car smell and be the first to get behind the wheel provides joy for many motorists.

With a fantastic range of '65 plate' cars now in stock to suit all tastes, local Vauxhall retailer Stourbridge Motor House is helping drivers in and around the area to enjoy the thrill of a new car with special offers and finance deals available.

Michael Casey, general manager at Stourbridge Motor House, explains: "We love it when customers come in and drive away in a shiny new car with a big grin on their face; it's a really great feeling to be the very first to drive a new car. That's why we make the process of buying as simple as possible, so the whole experience is an enjoyable one. With an extensive range of cars to choose from there's something for everyone – from the young driver looking for a trendy car, through to the family that needs space for all or the couple that wants to style it out in a convertible."

For those looking for a stylish city car, the new Corsa is the latest incarnation of the supermini with prices starting from £9,265 for the Sting 1.2 70PS HB3 on the road and comes loaded with spec as standard.

The Corsa's generous cabin and intuitive dashboard incorporates Vauxhall's innovative IntelliLink communications system, available on most models. Compatible with both Apple and Android phone and incorporating additional features such as voice command, Bluetooth and Siri Eyes Free, the new Corsa pushes boundaries without compromising its timeless and recognisable style.

For customers seeking a family-friendly vehicle, the Vauxhall Meriva is ideal for those with small children thanks to its clever FlexDoors® system with rear-hinged rear doors that provide easy access, and FlexSpace® seating system allowing re-arrangement of the interior to suit your needs – all starting from just £12,995. The Meriva also has a best-in-class five star safety rating, a range of optional extras available including Vauxhall's IntelliLink Infotainment system and a choice of finance solutions. The Meriva is available with a choice of three petrol and three diesel engines. The range of 1.6CDTi ecoFLEX diesel engines all come with Start/Stop technology as standard and with CO2 emissions starting as low as 99g/km the Meriva is economical as well as stylish.

The new VIVA has been designed for modern, everyday life, offering practicality and attention to detail. There are two trims; an SE from £7,995 and an SL from £9,495. The entry-level SE offers as standard cruise control with speed limiter, electric front windows, hill-start assist, heated door mirrors, lane departure warning, central locking and six airbags, in addition to colour-coded bumpers and door mirrors, plus cornering fog lights. Meanwhile the SL features 15-inch alloy wheels, Bluetooth technology, dark-tinted rear windows, USB and electronic climate control.

The VIVA is also the latest Vauxhall to feature the state-of-the-art new 1.0-litre three-cylinder ECOTEC petrol engine. Specially-developed for VIVA, the 75PS powertrain is smooth, punchy and efficient, and mated to a slick five-speed transmission.

To experience a new '65 plate' Vauxhall or to find out about the range of finance options available, contact Stourbridge Motor House at High Street, Amblecote, Stourbridge, West Midlands DY8 4DG. Or call 01384 447970 or go online at www.stourbridgemotorhouse.co.uk

The Famous Five

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• Front fog lights • 17-inch alloy wheels
• Mobile phone system with Bluetooth®*
• Full body-colour door mirrors
LIST PRICE £13995
SAVE £2500
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3 New Vauxhall Astra GTC 1.4 Sport
Specification includes:
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DAB digital radio Cruise control • Air conditioning
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Specification includes: Dual-zone Electronic Climate Control • Navi 950 satellite navigation system with CD, MP3 CD player and stereo radio • Cruise control
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5 New Vauxhall Antara Diamond 2.2Cdti
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Traction control (TC) • Hill start assist (HSA)
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Dudley Motor Company
Trindle Rd, Dudley, West Midlands DY2 7AY
01384 454100 www.dudleymotorco.co.uk

VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Highest: VAUXHALL Antara 5 Door SUV 2.2 CDTi 163PS Diamond FWD Stop/Start, M6: Urban: 37.2 (7.6), Extra-urban: 51.4 (5.5), Combined: 44.1 (6.4). CO_2 emissions: 167g/km Lowest: VAUXHALL Insignia 5 Door Hatchback 2.0 CDTi 140PS Limited Edition ecoFLEX Stop/Start, M6: Urban: 62.8 (4.5), Extra-urban: 88.3 (3.2), Combined: 76.3 (3.7). CO_2 emissions: 98g/km.

Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. Offers subject to availability, terms and conditions. Vehicles must be registered by 30th September 2015. Pictures for illustration purposes only.

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christadelphian

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what's on

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Wolverhampton Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

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7 Jobs

TOP GEAR Driver Training
- LGV / PCV Training
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- Free Assessments
- CPC Courses
- Driver Medicals
- Caravan & Horse Box Tuition available

0121 585 0834
www.topgear-lgv.com

courses

TELFORD: 30 SEPT -1 OCT. STOKE-ON-TRENT: 17-18 OCT.
DROITWICH: 30 OCT. - 1 NOV. BIRMINGHAM: 1-2 DEC.

Learn how to take blood
TRAIN AS A PHLEBOTOMIST

NATIONALLY RECOGNISED AND ACCREDITED
Introduction to Phlebotomy
TWO DAY COURSE
NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE REQUIRED
BOOK ONLINE: www.geopace.com
Hospitals - GP Surgeries - Private Sector - Community - MOD

employment wanted

EXPERIENCED BRICKLAYER seeking employment, private and commercial. 07778 480 411.

RETIRED TIME SERVED CARPENTER / JOINER Requires casual / part time work. Own van / tools. **01384 375672/07527 360303.**

finance & accounting

ACCOUNTANTS IN STOURBRIDGE Full-Time Bookkeeper £20,000.00+ depending on experience Email cv to emma@vickersreynolds.co.uk

full time - general

UPHOLSTERER required. Must be experienced. No track work. Good rates of pay. Tel: 01384 395550

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full time - general

Express & Star

BE A LOCAL STAR

Sales Relationship Merchandiser

Do you have an eye for detail, are you self - motivated, enthusiastic and are able to communicate effectively and with confidence.

The Express and Star are looking for a sales relationship merchandiser to join our team helping to grow audience, strengthen the relationship with retailers, readers and ensure the brand experience is positive.

Working within a busy customer focused environment, the successful applicant will work as part of a team, in designated territories, you will be required to ensure that all our titles are available, in key strategic positions to maximise response and exposure.

Previous sales or merchandising experience in the FMCG market is desirable, but not essential. The ability to react quickly and positively to a wide variety of situations is required. A professional attitude must be displayed at all times. You must have a full current driving licence, transport will be provided.

In return we offer full training and support, an annual salary of £8,200, 25 days holiday per year and enrolment into the company pension scheme.

The position is 20 hours per week worked across 5 days between Monday-Saturday, weekends and Bank Holiday working will be required on a rota basis.

Closing Date: Friday 9th October 2015

if you would like to be considered for this role please send your cv and covering letter to:
HR Department Midland News Association, Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES
or by e-mail to: **hr@mnamedia.co.uk Closing date: Friday 9th October 2015**

8 Motoring

cars over £1500

BMW 325 Ti Compact, 51 plate, blue, good condition, £1,695. 07815 098740.

SELLING YOUR CAR?

We have a package to suit every budget.
Packages start from as little as
£21.00 for 6 nights
Plus
6 nights free if you do not sell.

CALL 01902 317878

CHEVROLET SPARK 1000, 2012, 660 miles only, selling due to ill health. £4,000 no offers. 01902 403724.

CITROEN BERLINGO Multispace Desire, 07 reg, 1.6HDi, 75bhp, 21,334 miles, FSH, met red, MoT June 2016, £4,500. 01384 394423.

CITROEN C4 Picasso, 1.6, diesel, 7 seater, 2007, MoT'd, low mileage, very reliable, good condition, £3,100 ono. 07838 650913.

HYUNDAI COUPE Petrol, 2.7, 2006, silver, 24,000 miles, lady owner, MoT. Excellent condition, must be seen, £3,000. o.n.o. 01384 221275.

MITSUBISHI SHOGUN FIELD 3.2 TD LWB
2006 reg, diesel, only 65,000 miles. This is a rare Manual. 4x4. Sterling Silver, fitted Sat Nav. 7-seater, black leather, FSH. **£6,250. o.n.o.**
Telephone 01902 724124.

PEUGEOT 3008 Sport HDi, TD, 1.6, Dec 09, 5dr hatch. 28,000 miles. FSH, Immaculate. First viewer will buy. £7,850. 01902 894845.

PEUGEOT 307 SW S 1.6HDi Diesel 5dr Estate, 56 reg, 125k, long MoT, serviced, maintained, must sell, quick sale £1,599. 07813 166435.

RANGE ROVER
P38 model, 1999 T reg, 2.8TD, engine mileage 75,000 miles, vehicle mileage 144,00, in very good condition, 12 months MoT, 1 owner last 10 years.
£2,600.
07973 967985.

RENAULT CLIO 1.5
2009, 32,5000 miles, dCi Dynamique, blue, diesel, abs, electric windows, air bags, fsh, MoT, central locking, pas, Stereo, CD, great mpg!
£3,750 ono
07973420791

SEAT IBIZA 1.4 SPORT, 2006, 5 door, 63k, black, air con, alarm, excellent condition, MoT 2016, recent service, alloys, CD stereo. £2,250 ono. 07788 214350.

SKODA OCTAVIA AUTO Diesel, Est, 2006, MoT'd, alloys, maroon, service history. Very good condition. £3,200. o.n.o. 07738 586148.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXi, 5dr, 2007, 44,000 miles, black, immaculate condition. £3,700. 01746 765183.

VAUXHALL CORSA
SXI 1.2 ,2009 (59), 39,000 Miles, very good condition, c/l,a/c, h/m , e/w 12 months mot,17in Alloys,CD,abs,air bags and alarm,Lady owner.
£3,300 ono
01902791232

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

CITROEN PICASSO Desire 2.0HDi, diesel, 2004, alloys, air con, EW, CL, MoT, £950. 01902 783990.

FIAT MULTIPLA 1.9D, 2001, MoT March 2016, 6-seater, CD player, new tyres all round, drives excellent, £600 ono. 07460 853380.

FIAT PUNTO 1.2. 02 reg, Full MoT, Service history. Cambelt changed. Low mileage for year. Great runner. £550. 07977 409132 after 5pm.

FORD FIESTA FINESSE 1.25, 2004, 76,000 miles, long MoT, silver, radio/CD, very good condition, well maintained. Ideal first car. £1,400 ono. 01384 393244.

FORD KA
2005, 64,500 miles, silver, abs, air bag, MoT, pas, stereo, CD.
£775.
07970 706338.

FORD MONDEO LX, turbo diesel, 2001, full MoT, excellent condition, £675. 07494 090052.

JAGUAR S-TYPE 3.0 V6 SE, 51 reg, 11 months MoT, fsh, good looking motor. £1,000 no offers. 01902 785453 (W'hampton).

KIA MAGENTIS SE
55 plate, automatic, petrol, 42k miles, blue grey leather, abs, electric windows/mirrors, air con, alarm, MoT, central locking, 2 owners, cruise control, immaculate.
£1,095 ono.
07985 551666.

MAZDA PREMACY Atlantis, 2001, X reg, 12 months MoT, AC, pas, EW, towbar, excellent condition, £400. 07908 134383.

MERCEDES C200 KOMPRESSOR Elegance, 2001, fsh, full leather, 10 months MoT, £1,400 ono. Telephone 01902 782055.

PEUGEOT 307 LX
2003, 100,000 miles, grey, air bag, air con, MoT, central locking, stereo, CD.
£850.
07773 925885.

RENAULT CLIO
07 reg, 10 months MoT, 1.4 Dynamique, a/c, CD, radio, electric windows, service history, 109k miles, family owned, very good condition, Codsall.
£1,495 ono.
07772 004844.

RENAULT LAGUNA Estate, 1.9 DCi, 54 plate, light blue, good condition, MoT, £850. 07815 098740.

RENAULT MEGAN Scenic Dynamic 1.5 TDi, 04, 50+ mpg, MoT September 2016, cheap tax, nice car, £795. 07486 465406.

RENAULT MEGANE SCENIC DIESEL 1.8 02 reg, MoT Feb, good condition. £550. 07903 435280.

ROVER 1800 MGZS, 83,000 miles only, AA or RAC inspection welcome, lovely drive £600 ono. 07543 919296.

SUZUKI ALTO GL, yellow, 993cc, first registered 12.11.99, MoT 2016, 91,000 miles, £400 ono. 01384 441462.

VW BEETLE 2002, 91,000 miles, silver, electric windows, long MoT, metallic paint, alloys. £1,095 ono. 07754 557861.

VW GOLF 02, 1.9TDi, 12 months MoT, well maintained, £1,250 o.n.o. 07886 179984.

VW POLO 1.2E 2003, (53 Reg), black, 3Dr, low mileage 49k, full MoT, good condition, drives well, £1,250 ono 07958 445720.

classic cars

FORD CAPRI 1.6 SL 1983, 1 owner, 40,000 miles, regularly serviced / garaged, sunshine roof, current MoT, £5,000 ono. 0121 4454452.

WANTED, CLASSIC Cars. Private cash buyer.Instant cash settlement. Any age. Any condition. 01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

driving tuition

Homer's
Mini, Clio, Corsa, Fiesta, Punto, 207, KA, Fiat 500, Yaris.
10 Hours £89! Five Hours £50!
2 Hours £20! All Areas Covered
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07970 200066 / 01562 870050
01384 234954 / 0121 5640090
01902 580065
www.homersdrivingschool.co.uk

motorbikes

GENERIC ROC 49CC 2011, fsh, low mileage, MoT May 2016, lady owner, £350 good condition. 01902 847310.

SUZUKI BANDIT 650 56 reg, new chain and sprockets, new battery, full MoT, full service, 20k. £1,500. 01384 250253.

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

MCB
TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
Tel: 01902 408176
1000's of parts available at all times
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1st CHOICE
TOP PRICE PAID 4 SCRAP CARS!
VANS! CAMPERS! MOT FAILURES!
ANYTHING CONSIDERED. FREE COLLECTION WITHIN THE HOUR! 7 DAYS
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07895 346811- 24 hrs

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Pays More
All Scrap Cars & Vans Wanted
Anything Considered
Free Collection
Scrap It Legally COD. Given Instant Payment.
01902 493110 / 0121 525 5813 daytime
01902 659775 evenings

A BETTER PRICE
for scrap or damaged cars and commercials. Spares for sale.
NINE LOCKS VEHICLE DISMANTLERS LTD
Brierley Hill 01384 76566 or 70553. Evenings 75397. DY5 3JZ.

vehicles wanted

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Used cars wanted for cash
Top prices paid. HP settled.
Buyer could call.
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CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, 01902 597035.

spares & accessories

clutches / brakes / gearboxes

A CLUTCH CHANGE MOBILE
30 yrs experience
ALL AREAS COVERED
Call Bob
01384 251328 or
07972 169554 anytime
For Example:
Citroen C1, C2, C3
Hyundai 110
Toyota Yaris
Clios & Micras
Ring for quotes on others!

accessories & services

BMW Z3 HARDTOP. Metallic black, including fitting kit. Excellent condition. £700. 01384 393244.

mobile mechanics

MOBILE MECHANICS Service & repairs. Headgasket, clutches and cambelts. 07747 848469.

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to
Marie Hogg on 01902 713146
or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Stuart Pearsall trading as Bestrans of 58 Arlington Court, Stourbridge, West Midlands DY8 1NN is applying to change an existing licence as follows:

To keep an extra ONE goods vehicle and NIL trailers at the operating centre at Protec Enamel Limited, G.K. Davies Trading Estate, Hayes Lane, Lye, Stourbridge, West Midlands DY9 8QX.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended)

The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

Notice of consultation of Dudley Borough Development Strategy (Pre-Publication Modifications)

The Dudley Borough Development Strategy is currently being prepared to guide development within the Borough up to 2026. It consists of local planning policies and site allocations across the Borough (excluding the town Centres of Brierley Hill, Stourbridge, Halesowen and Dudley which have their own Area Action Plans) and, once adopted, will supersede the Dudley Unitary Development Plan (UDP).

In 2014, Dudley Council consulted on a draft version (Preferred Options) of the document and, following consideration of the representations received, the Council has decided to consult on a number of proposed major changes prior to it being finalised which are specified within this latest Pre-Publication Modifications document.

The document is available for viewing until Wednesday 4 November 2015 at:

- Reception at 4 Ednam Road, Dudley, DY1 1HL (Mon to Fri 8.45am to 5.00pm)
- Dudley Council Plus, 259 Castle Street, Dudley, DY1 1LQ (Mon to Fri 8.30am to 5.00pm, Sat 9am to 12 noon)
- All main public libraries in the Dudley borough (opening times may vary)
- Online at www.dudley.gov.uk/environment--planning/planning/local-development-framework

Comments can be submitted via email to localplan@dudley.gov.uk or via post to: Strategic Planning Section, Dudley Council, 4 Ednam Road, Dudley, DY1 1HL.

Only comments made in writing by 4 November 2015 will be considered.

Comments should specify the matters to which they relate and the grounds on which they are made. They may be accompanied by a request to be notified of the adoption of the document.

For more information call 01384 814136 or email localplan@dudley.gov.uk

Alan Lunt
Strategic Director - Place

10 Personals

personal

AT MANYANA Gentlemans Club, 5* customer rated-Mon-Fri 10-9pm. Sat-Sun: 10-11pm. 0121 472 7281.

★★★

ATTENTION LADIES 40-55.
Please don't pass this advert by, read on and see I'm a genuine guy.
52, slim, attractive, GSOH, romantic too, hoping for reply from a lady like you.
Please write to:
Box Number P20072, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

★★★

MALE
Seeking Classy Female between 25-38, no hidden agenda, for evenings out and spending time with an attractive male of good standing who lives in the countryside, has a good outlook on life who only like honesty and reliability.
Photo appreciated.
(Will return)
Box Number P20070, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

MALE , 60
Sincere and caring, has lots of loving and TLC to give. WLTM similar female.
Box Number P20061, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

★★★

MALE WIDOWER, 60's.

Self employed.
Car and house owner.
WLTM Lady for friendship and maybe more.
Stourbridge and surrounding areas.

Box Number P20062 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

★★★

sports clubs

BILBROOK JPLS

Under 13's are looking for 3 exceptional players for their squad this season. We're looking at ex academy/centre of excellence level players or those already playing at a high standard to join our elite level side. We play in one of the best leagues in the country against professional set ups every week. This is a great opportunity for talented players to showcase their skills. Please note this will have no impact on sunday football or the teams you currently play for.

To book a trial please contact Mark on 07837 630590.

WOMBOURNE COLTS UNDER 13'S

Require new players who have previously played for other teams.

For more details please contact

Stuart on 07921 477710 or Simon on 07901 009188.

general

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

SEEKING JO (Joanne)
Lives in the Bilston area, mid 30's, stocky build, approx 5ft 5", has tattoos and piercing, drives a delivery van.
Mother lives in the Villiars area of Bilston and married a Police man.
Appreciation would be shown
Box Number P20063, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

ADVERTISEMENTS CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE

1. **Midland News Association Limited** All publications in this group are published by the Midland News Association Limited, registered office Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES ('the Company') and this is the address to which any notices should be sent.
2. **Acceptance** The Company will only accept advertising on these standard terms and no other contract terms or conditions will apply other than those which are implied by statute and cannot lawfully be excluded. In particular the Company will not accept advertising on the basis of advertiser's terms and conditions.
3. **Content of Advertisements** All advertisements must be legal decent honest and truthful. Advertisements must comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes under the general supervision of the Advertising Standards Authority. Advertisements must comply with the requirements of all current legislation including but not limited to the following:- All advertisements must clearly differentiate between trade and private advertising as required by the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order 1977. Advertisements offering credit or hire facilities must comply with the Consumer Credit (Advertisement) Regulations 1980.
   All descriptions of goods must be accurate and in no way infringe the provisions of the Trades Descriptions Act 1968.
   Advertisements must not contain any material which is defamatory. You must have permission to use any material contained in your advertisement and must not infringe the copyright moral rights or any other right of any third party.
   The Company reserves the right to refuse to carry any advertisement or to require amendment of any advertisement in its absolute discretion.
4. **Appearance of Advertisements** Whilst the Company makes every effort to comply with requests, publication on a particular date or in a particular position cannot be guaranteed. The Company reserves the right to alter, suspend, cancel or reject an advertisement at its discretion even after the same has been accepted for publication without being liable to compensate you. You will not be charged for any advertisement which does not appear. If only a part of a series of advertisements appears you will only be charged for the advertisements in the series which actually appear. The Company does not guarantee the publication or extent of supporting editorial and your obligation to pay for advertising will not under any circumstances be dependent upon the appearance or content of editorial. No liability will be accepted for non-appearance of editorial. The Company does not guarantee that advertising will not appear for similar or the same subject matter to your advertisement and no liability shall be accepted as a result of such advertising appearing. It is the advertiser's responsibility to provide any amended copy, whether by electronic or other format, and the Company does not guarantee that it will be able to or will agree to modify, amend or alter any file or copy supplied to it.
5. **Liability The Company's** liability for any loss or damage caused by any error or omission in the advertisement or any other breach of contract shall not in any circumstances exceed a full refund of any price paid by the advertiser to the Company for the publication of the advertisement or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of the same type as that which originally appeared. Where a series of advertisements is booked the Company's liability shall not in any circumstances exceed the value of the first advertisement in the series. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the publication of the advertisement the Company will either re-publish the advertisement or the relevant parts of the advertisement or make a reasonable refund of or adjustment to the cost of the advertisement. If the error does not materially detract from the advertisement then no re-publication, refund or adjustment will be made. It is the advertiser's responsibility to check the content of advertisements and the Company will not accept any liability for loss or damage, or obligation to republish or make a refund or adjustment, arising from re-publication of an advertisement containing an error, misprint or omission which has not been identified by the advertiser after first publication.
6. **Box numbers The Company** accepts no liability for loss or damage caused by delay in forwarding or omission to forward to the advertiser replies to Box Numbers. Box Numbers must not be used for sending goods, distributing circulars or communications from agents. The Company reserves the right to open and inspect all replies to Box Number and to destroy goods, circulars of communications from agents which are discovered during an inspection.
7. **Inspection The Company** shall be entitled at any time to inspect any goods or services advertised and may decline to carry further advertising if such inspection is not permitted or if in the Company's opinion the provision of further advertising facilities is not appropriate in view of the nature or quality of the goods or services.
8. **Indemnity** The advertiser, including any advertising agency involved in placing any advertisement, warrants that it has permission to use for publication by electronic and printed means all material which is included in the advertisement. The advertiser and any advertising agency involved in placing any advertisement agree to indemnify the Company in respect of all charges, costs, claims or damage arising out of the publication of the advertisement, whether the same result from actual or threatened legal action or from some other cause.
9. **Cancellation** On a request for cancellation or amendment of a classified advertisement being accepted, you will be given a cancellation or amendment number which must be quoted in all subsequent correspondence. Payment of the originally agreed price will be required in full for any advertisement in relation to which the advertiser is unable to supply a valid cancellation or amendment number. Cancellation can only be accepted if the Company is notified of the cancellation by no later than the following deadlines:-
   Lineage, Semi Display - By no later than 6.30pm on the working day prior to publication. Advertisements to appear on Monday must be cancelled by 10 am on the preceding Saturday
   Classified Display - By no later than 24 hours before the date of publication
   Colour/Features - By no later than 10 clear days before the date of publication
   To cancel Lineage, Semi Display and Classified Display advertisements please telephone 01902 317878. To cancel Colour/Features advertisements please speak to the Representative through whom the advertisement was booked.
10. **Rates** Advertising rates are as laid out in the Company's current rate card which is available on request from the Company's offices. The rates may be varied from time to time in the Company's absolute discretion and without prior notification of the intended variation. The revised rate will be charged for any advertising ordered after the date of variation.
    All gross advertising rates except classified lineage and semi-display are subject to a 0.1% Advertising Standards Board of Finance levy payable by advertisers to help finance the self-regulatory system administered by the Advertising Standards Authority.
11. **Payment** The Company reserves the right to require pre-payment as a condition of any advertisement being published. Where pre-payment is not required unless different credit terms have been agreed with the advertiser in writing payment must be made within 14 days of the date of issue of the Company's invoice. An additional £2.00 booking charge will be payable if the invoice is not paid in full within this 14 day period.
    Any additional credit facilities which are offered are at the Company's absolute discretion. The advertiser's liability shall be for the full amount of all advertising ordered and shall not be limited to the amount of any credit limit which the Company may impose.
    Payment may be made by [method] cash, cheque or credit/debit card. The advertiser's obligation to pay for other items on an account shall not be affected by the existence of any query over an individual item within that account.
12. **Data Protection Act** The advertiser's details will be retained by the Company for the purposes of administering our accounts records and so that the Company may notify the advertiser of future advertising opportunities which may be of interest to you. By placing advertising with the Company the advertiser agrees to your details being used for this purpose.
13. **Applicable Law** These conditions of acceptance shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the law of England and Wales.

Local Specialists

Alarms

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Alarms from £249
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New 3 Year Guarantee on Blinds and up to 10 Year Guarantee on Shutters
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Free quotes and advice on:
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- Steamed up units
- **Broken door locks**
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Established 1990
Telephone Michael 01384 356251

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Manufacturers & Installers of windows, doors & conservatories
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10 YEAR GUARANTEE
"Energy efficient windows that won't cost the earth"
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certass FENSA

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Buy Direct from the manufacturer. Est. 1999
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Reduce heat loss by up to 75%
Also upgrade your existing double glazed units to Pilkington Energikare, it will help to reduce the amount of heat lost through your windows by up to 75%, lock, handles, hinges.
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Heathens sweating over Max's fitness

Cradley 36 Birmingham 54

CRADLEY are sweating on the fitness of No.1 Max Clegg who crashed out of the club's 54-36 semi-final first-leg defeat in the Gold Cup.

The Heathens got off to a sluggish start and found themselves trailing by eight-points with five races gone.

But they always faced an up-hill task when Clegg was withdrawn from the meeting after six heats.

The Yorkshire rider was leading Birmingham captain Tom Perry but on the exit of bend four, Clegg clattered in to the wooden fence down the home straight and took a horrific looking tumble.

Clegg was taken to hospital after being dazed in the incident but the main concern was over a potential injury to his left hand.

With the atmosphere somewhat wiped out, the Heathens never really had an answer to their Perry Barr co-tenants as they were made to pay for a series of slow starts and mechanical issues.

The Heathens registered their first of just two race advantages in heat seven when Matt Williamson and Arron Mogridge raced to a 4-2.

Birmingham replied instantly before a Cradley 5-1 from Williamson and guest Darryl Ritchings to reduce the deficit back to eight points.

Will Pottinger's men would go on to register just one race winner for the rest of the evening as his side slipped to an 18-point defeat.

Cradley: Matt Williamson 13, Arron Mogridge 12+2, Darryl Ritchings 8+1, Max Clegg 2, Michael Neale 1, Tyler Govier 0.

Birmingham: Adam Ellis 15, Zach Wajtknecht 11, Tom Perry 10+1, Jack Parkinson-Blackburn 6+1, Jack Smith 5+2, Adam Kirby 2.

Chess club starts week with a loss

THE week started with Tuesday's first trip of the season for Stourbridge Chess Club to Halesowen for a Dudley Division 3 match.

SCC lost 3-1 with Steve Alcock scoring their win.

Junior Kyle Price enjoyed playing his first match for the club.

On Wednesday, the Wolverhampton Division 2 team hosted Brewood.

SCC's top two boards were out graded but the bottom four each had about a 10 point advantage over their opponents.

Things did not go to plan, draws were agreed on boards five and six, and then Dave Scriven broke his 100 per cent record with a loss on board one.

This was followed by the SCC board two also resigning, so the club had to win the remaining two games just to draw.

Board three Julie Wilson was a piece up with a lot of wood still on the board while Eric Horwill on board four was three pawns up in an end-game.

Wilson probed away with her extra piece while Eric exchanged down to a winning ending.

With time running short Wilson managed to break through and her opponent resigned when her Wilson's knight delivered a fork.

Eric now had two connected passed pawns and completed the win with less than five minutes left. Brewood were happy with a 3-3 draw but Stourbridge were happy to have saved the match.

On Thursday the Wolverhampton league Humphreys Cup team travelled to Lichfield.

One of Lichfield's players failed to turn up and Colin Woodall won by default.

Martin Berridge was first to finish, with a win. Jeremy Humphries then drew to give Stourbridge the four-board match.

This was a great result and defending champions Stourbridge now progress to the semi-final.

Next week SCC are fielding three teams in the first round of the Birmingham Terrill Trophy.

Anyone interested in joining Stourbridge chess club can contact Dave Scriven on 01384 423642.

Yeltz get Nun as cup run is brought to conclusion

FA Cup 2nd Qualifying Round
Halesowen 0 Nuneaton Town 2

HALESOWEN'S interest in this season's FA Cup ended after National League North Nuneaton Town grabbed two second half goals.

But the outcome may have been different if a 61st minute screamer from Greg Pearson had not struck the post with Nuneaton goalkeeper Jordan Smith beaten.

Manager John Hill also hailed Halesowen's great effort against a full-time team with just small margins determining the result.

Aaron Williams had a 16th minute effort ruled out for offside for the Boro after Elliott Whitehouse's shot was parried by home goalkeeper Matt Sargeant.

But the Yeltz more than held their own in a goal-less first half as Pearson glanced a header wide two minutes later.

Late in the first half Sargeant beat away a fierce 34th minute shot from Nuneaton's Shane Byrne.

The Yeltz went mightily close in the 61st minute when Pearson's 20 yard thunderbolt shot rebounded off the top of the post, only for Nuneaton to take the lead two minutes later when James Clifton's shot deflected up for Aaron Williams to nod home in front of goal.

As the Yeltz sought an equaliser, Joe Hull stole in to meet a 75th minute free-kick from Aaron Griffiths but blasted the ball over the bar.

Sargeant then saved a fierce half-volley from Nuneaton substitute Rob Duffy.

However, the Boro made the tie safe at 2-0 in the 82nd minute.

Stour exploit the lack of discipline

Harrogate 12 Stourbridge 24

STOURBRIDGE got over a shaky start to impose themselves on opponents whose poor discipline gifted a steady supply of territory and possession.

Needing no second invitation Stour had recorded a bonus point fourth try by the half-hour and were then content to give their defensive drills a workout as they spent much of second-half defending a lead the hosts were unable to claw back.

Harrogate registered the first score in the opening exchanges, working the ball around to stretch the visitors' defences and a neat offload carving an opening finished off in the corner by hooker Aurin Yorke.

Undeterred Stour pressed their first attack, securing a penalty in the Harrogate 22 and kicking to the corner.

With the ball knocked from jumper Chris Depper's grasp, scrum half Toby Handley spun it wide, after several probing runs No.8 Connor Nicholls spotted an overlap on the left, delayed his pass to perfection and put Joe Bridger in at the corner.

Stacked

Harrogate gathered the restart and ran back at Stour.

They had numbers stacked up on the right but a loose pass near the Stour 10m line was picked off by winger Josh Trinham who hared down field, outpacing the cover to score in the same corner.

Outside half Chris Scott missed with a long-range kick at goal after the hosts were penalised gain.

Their indiscipline continued to cost them, Stour kicking to the corner and looking to drive a maul, Handley's show-and-go opening enough space for him to sneak through the fringe defences to score.

Scott opened his account with the conversion.

The Stour scrum got to work, forcing a penalty when the host's front row stood up under pressure on their own feed, but Scott was unable to land another long-range shot at goal.

Handley kicked infield from just outside the Stour 22, the chase regathered it and Stour drove up the middle. Spotting a mismatch in the defensive line centres James Otutaha and Joe Heatley worked a switch move and left the defence clutching at thin air as Heatley blasted though to score.

Harrogate drove up field but their drives were contained by a well-organised Stour defence that finally forced a penalty for holding on.

Harrogate drove an early 2nd half attack to within inches of the Stour line before being penalised for holding on.

With a three-score lead Stour were content to hang onto the ball, trucking it up the middle and taking few risks.

A break by Trinham saw him hauled down just short of the line but the opportunity went begging when a pass went loose and possession was turned over.

Harrogate finally moved the scoreboard again when a worked lineout move saw replacement hooker Tom Larder crash over in the corner.

The Stourbridge pack in the scrum during the match against Harrogate

Runners are among the prizes haul

ATHLETES from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club were amongst the prizes again at the weekend as Rob Meredith claimed victory in the Norton 10k.

He grabbed a personal best of 35.36, smashing the course record.

He was joined by Graham Wildgoose, who, although a few minutes behind the winner, claimed second M50 in 42.06 placing 13th overall.

A little further south Andy Fraser pulled on the vest to compete in the Cheltenham Half Marathon. Fraser stopped the clock in 2.13.16 to take 2,362nd place.

Over the full marathon distance Dave Garbutt travelled to the Loch Ness Marathon. Garbutt came home in an admirable 4.28.49 to finish in 1,438th place earning himself a well-deserved rest.

Team Dudley let lead slip away twice

FC Stafford 5 Team Dudley 2

FC Stafford came from behind twice to run out easy winners and claim three Midland League Division One points.

Dudley took the lead after only four minutes. A lack of communication between George Kirkland and Jon Warburton saw Nathan Jones calmly place his shot into the net.

Stafford levelled when Charlie Marshall released Thomas Duffy and his effort across goal deflected into the net.

Dudley went 2-1 up when Ryan Spittle volleyed home, but it was 2-2 at the break courtesy of a strike from Andy Willacy.

But Rangers took charge in the second half with Duffy making it 3-2.

Ben Smith fired into the roof of the net with Duffy adding the fifth.

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An Express & Star supplement

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Sport

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Wolves up for sale and Morgan gone

WOLVES chairman and owner Steve Morgan has put the club up for sale and left with immediate effect.

Morgan took over the club in 2007 and his bombshell departure – which came completely out of the blue for supporters – has left Wolves in limbo.

The majority of Wolves fans said they were pleased to see the back of the Liverpool-born property magnate.

Wolves said the decision was made 'after much thought' and insisted it was 'business as usual' at Molineux.

The sale raises serious questions about the club's future, but:

l It comes amid rumours of an angry spat with supporters before Saturday's game at Preston

l Boss Kenny Jackett is thought to have been at odds with Morgan over transfer policy

l Senior members of staff have been left stunned by the sudden departure

l Morgan insists he will still invest in Wolves until a new owner is found

l Chief executive Jez Moxey will take over the day-to-day running of the club in the meantime

Passionate

Many fans are pleased with Morgan's departure.

But Charles Ross, editor of Wolves fanzine A Load of Bull, said the timing was 'awful'.

He added: "This is a club clearly at a cross roads, if not in a crisis. The long-term future of the club has a huge question mark.

"The timing of it, frankly, is awful. The team is having a crisis of confidence on the pitch, and now they have got one in the boardroom. It is not good, there is no way it can be spun as business as usual."

Smith reaches a milestone with 250 games at the helm

BOSS Dean Smith will have celebrated his 250th game in charge of Walsall wiuth facing Scunthorpe at Glanford Park this week.

The Saddlers supremo, who was appointed to the role in January 2011, is now the third longest serving manager in the club's history behind Alan Buckley and Billy Moore.

"I feel very proud," Smith said on reaching the landmark.

"It shows a level of commitment from the football club and a level of commitment from myself towards a project to try and help the football club climb through the leagues.

"League One is a very tough league to get out of but we're trying to get into the Championship.

"Only three Walsall managers have got us into the Championship and I want to be the fourth.

"We know how hard it's going to be but I'm pleased with the progress the football club is making."

The Saddlers could only manage a 1-1 draw against Crewe at the weekend with striker Tom Bradshaw grabbing his side's only goal.

Players lacking confidence, says Kenny

Football

WOLVES boss Kenny Jackett admitted his players were lacking in confidence after their woes continued at nine-man Preston.

Kevin McDonald's injury-time strike earned Jackett's team a point at Deepdale, but the hosts played for 70 minutes with 10 men and had another man sent off 10 minutes from time.

With Wolves 12 points off Championship leaders Brighton – and just three off the bottom of the table – Jackett knows drastic improvements are needed. Jackett said: "I think at times we look like we're searching for confidence, there's a number of players at times who look like they're searching for confidence while wanting to do very well.

"It's a period we have to just keep working through wherever we can now, avoid injuries, and keep working to try to build up confidence and momentum."

McDonald's return to form was a boost for Wolves and the head coach said that needed to continue.

"He's a big player for us, it was a terrific goal and we feel for all his passing ability he can add goals to his game, he's started to do that this season and we want him to get back to his very best," the Wolves boss added. "Quite often over the past two seasons when he's played well the team has played well."

Sheyi Ojo and Nathan Byrne impressed from the bench and Jackett hinted they may come into his thinking for the Craven Cottage clash.

"The two wide men (Byrne and Ojo) looked like they had life and a bit of zip about them," he said. "During the course of the second half our most effective line going forward was the ball out to Ojo.

"He's only 18 and I think, during the course of the season, will keep improving."

CHANCE MISSED BYGLASSBOYS

Stourbridge 1Grantham 1

STOURBRIDGE will be disappointed to have only drawn 1-1 with Grantham Town after having the majority of the play, taking the lead and hitting the woodwork three times.

Grantham had only won their first Evo-Stik League Premier Division game of the season on Saturday and looked to be there for the taking, as Stourbridge took the game to them from the start.

The Glassboys almost took the lead on only three minutes when Chris Lait produced a great shot which was just saved by goalkeeper Jake Turner.

Justin Richards' point-blank follow up was also stopped. But the former Kidderminster striker made no mistake three minutes later when he was sent away from a clearance and finished well in the bottom corner.

Grantham almost equalised on 10 minutes when Stourbridge keeper Lewis Solly fluffed a clearance and Lee Shaw couldn't quite turn it up, then Danny Meadows put a half volley wide.

Dan Scarr hit the bar with a header from a corner on 34 minutes but Grantham came out for the second half with renewed purpose and Meadows went close again before Ben Saunders headed the equaliser.

This woke Stourbridge up again,substitute Brian Smikle going close.

In the last five minutes Ben Billingham set up Richards who hit the bar with a header and then another cross from Billingham was deflected onto the post by a Grantham defender.

Stourbridge 3 Dunkirk 1

Stourbridge had far too much ammunition for Nottingham-based Midland League minnows Dunkirk as they booked their place in the FA Cup third qualifying round.

The Glassboys had already squandered a couple of early openings before taking a seventh-minute lead.

Despite being tripped, Drew Canavan was able to release Chris Lait down the left flank, who cleverly cut inside two Dunkirk defenders to slot home. Twice Stourbridge defender Stuart Pierpoint was denied by Dunkirk goalkeeper Jake Want, who kept his side in the game with a string of superb saves.

Dunkirk were thrown a lifeline on 29 minutes when Pierpoint spectacularly headed a right wing cross from Macauley Diuk into his own net.

But Stourbridge restored their lead six minutes later. Want had already pulled off a point-blank save to deny striker Karl Hawley, but just seconds later Hawley was able to slot home after Tom Tonks and Matt Dodd combined to draw Dunkirk's defence out of position.

Stourbridge finally put the game to bed on 62 minutes when Pierpoint made amends for his earlier error by headed home at the far post from Leon Broadhurst's pin-point corner.

The margin of victory could have been much greater but Want prevented further goals, especially when he kept out a goalbound free-kick from Broadhurst on 79 minutes.

Glassboys boss Gary Hackett claimed: "Dunkirk were struggling to hang on to us at times and the game finished up closer than it should have been.

"We should have finished it off earlier.

"But the most important thing is that we won and we're through to the next round."

Justin Richards fires in to put Stourbridge 1-0 up. *PictureWill Kilpatrick Photography*

High five as Cradley show class

Tipton Town 0 Cradley Town 5

CRADLEY Town boosted their West Midlands Premier Division title hope with a resounding 5-0 success at Tipton Town.

Following their 3-0 home victory over Tipton just a couple of weeks ago, second-placed Cradley underlined their superiority with another comprehensive display.

Tipton manager Paul Totney had pulled of a coup by re-signing their ace goal-getter of some five or so years ago, Ravi Sangha, but chances were few and far between for the hosts.

Cradley, in truth, dominated much of the proceedings, the general momentum of play being in favour of the visitors although Tipton did have some good passages of pressure.

However, on 18 minutes, the visitors fashioned a sustained attack which ended with Bill Tibbetts putting them into the lead when he netted from close range.

After a Tipton rally that saw Sangha just fail to beat Cradley keeper Shaun Edwards, the visitors forged further ahead. Adam Meachem was the man on target with a 20-yard strike that gave home keeper Josh Morgan no chance.

A good response from Tipton saw Sangha and Damien Jarrett test Edwards before the visitors virtually clinched the points with a third goal right on half-time through Lewis Clarke.

Tipton's much younger side started to flag a little although Shane Grainger was unlucky not to reduce the arrears.

Back surged Cradley, with Meachem scoring again to make it 4-0. Cradley went nap in the 87th minute when Trevor Wassell turned Tibbetts's low cross into the net.

Grealish goes for England colours

VILLA midfielder Jack Grealish has pledged his international future to England.

Grealish, who celebrated his 20th birthday this month, represented the Republic of Ireland at youth level through his Irish-born grandparents before his displays at Villa under the guidance of Tim Sherwood caught the eye of England manager Roy Hodgson.

Hodgson has been keen for Grealish to come to a decision about his international future.

Grealish, who turned down a call-up to the senior Ireland squad for a friendly against England in June, was watched by Hodgson's assistant, Ray Lewington, at Anfield on Saturday.

★★★

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